PERIMEDES
The Blacke-Smith,

A golden methode, how to vse *the minde in pleasant and pro-* fitable exercise:

Wherein is contained speciall principles fit for the highest to imitate, and the meanest to put in practise, *how best to spend the wearie winters nights, or the* longest summers Euenings, in honest and delightfull recreation:

Wherein we may learne to auoide idlenesse and wan*ton scurrilitie, vvhich diuers appoint as the end* of their pastimes.

Heerein are interlaced three merrie and necessarie discourses fit for our time: with certaine *pleasant Histories and tragicall tales, which may breed delight to all, and offence to none.*

Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit vtile dulci.

LONDON
Printed by Iohn Wolfe, for
Edward White. 1588.

To the Right worship, *Gerui Clifton* Esquire, *Robert Greene* wisheth increase of worship and Vertue.

NO *sooner, Right worshipfull, was* Alexander *come to ripe yeares, but his father* Philip *presented him a booke and a horse; the one, to signifie his delight in letters; the other, his desire to martiall indeuours:* Pallas *had hir speare, and hir pen; counted as well the patronesse of schollers, as of souldiers: And* Alexander *forenamed, no sooner laide off his helmet, but hee tooke in hand* Homers Iliades; *scarse come from handling his weapon with his maister* Parmenio, *but he fell to parlee of studie with his* Tutor Aristotle; *counting the profit that hee reaped by philosophie, litle lesse then the gaines he got by his great conquest. These premises considered, hearing how your worship in the prime of your youth; not onely delighted in martiall activity, but fauored the study of good letters, as a* Mœcenas *and patron of such vertuous labours, I resolued, if I could not hang at the shryne of* Apollo *beautifull instruments, yet to deck his aulters with Bay garlands: and if my want hindred me from offering to* Minerua *great volumes, yet I aduentured to strew*

her temple with loose papers, though my abilitie was not sufficient to present your Worship with any worke worth the viewing, yet I presumed as spurred forward by the report of your courtesie, and fame of your vertues, to dedicate this little pamphlet to your Worship, conteyning the tattle betweene a Smith and his wife, full of diuerse precepts interlaced with delightfull histories, which if they profit some, and please others, let them returne the end of both to your worship, for whome this worke was first taken in hand: but howsoeuer it delights or discontents, so it fit your humour, and passe with your gratious acceptance, I shall hit the marke I aimed at, and so least I should shape Hercules *shoo for a childs foote, I commit your worship to the Almightie.*

Your worships to command,
Robert Greene.

To the Gentlemen readers, *Health.*

GEntlemen I dare not ſtep awrye from my wonted method, firſt to appeale to your fauorable courteſies, which euer I haue found (howſoeuer plawſible) yet ſmothered with a milde ſilence: the ſmall pamphlets that I haue thruſt forth how you haue regarded them I know not, but that they haue been badly rewarded with any ill tearmes I neuer found, which makes me the more bold to trouble you, and the more bound to reſt yours euerye waie, as euer I haue done: I keepe my old courſe, to palter vp ſome thing in Proſe, vſing mine old poeſie ſtill, *Omne tulit punctum*, although latelye two Gentlemen Poets, made two mad men of Rome beate it out of their paper bucklers: & had it in deriſion, for that I could not make my verſes iet vpon the ſtage in tragicall buskins, euerie worde filling the mouth like the faburden of Bo-Bell, daring God out of heauen with that Atheiſt *Tamburlan*, or blaſpheming with the mad preeſt of the ſonne: but let me rather openly pocket vp the Aſſe at *Diogenes* hand: then wantonlye ſet out ſuch impious inſtances of intollerable poetrie, ſuch mad and ſcoffing poets, that haue propheticall ſpirits as bred of *Merlins* race, if there be anye in England that ſet

the end of scollarisme in an English blanck verse, I thinke either it is the humor of a nouice that tickles them with selfe-loue, or to much frequenting the hot house (to vse the Germaine prouerbe) hath swet out all the greatest part of their wits, which wasts *Gradatim*, as the Italians say *Poco à poco*. If I speake darkely Gentlemen, and offend with this digression, I craue pardon, in that I but answere in print, what they haue offered on the Stage: but leauing these phantasticall schollers, as iudging him that is not able to make choice of his chaffer, but a pedling chapman, at last to *Perymedes the Black Smith*, who sitting in his holi-dai-sute, to enter parlee with his wif, smugd vp in her best apparrell, I present to your fauors. If he please, I haue my desire, if he but passe I shalbe glad. If neither, I vowe to make amends in my *Oepharion*, which I promise to make you merry with the next tearme: And thus resting on your wonted courtesies, I bid you farewell.

Yours as euer he hath beene,
R. Greene.

Au R. Greene Gentilhōme,

Sonnet.

EVphues qui a bien connu fils-aisné d'Eloquence,
Son propre frere puisné te pourroit reconnoistre
Par tes beaux escrits, GREENE, tu fais apparoistre
Que de la docte Sœur tu as pris ta naissance.
Marot & de-Mornay pour le langage Francois :
Pour l'Espaignol Gueuare, Boccace pour le Toscan :
Et le gentil Sleidan refait l'Allemand :
GREENE & Lylli tous deux raffineurs de l'Anglois.
GREENE a son Mareschal monstrant son arte diuine,
Moulé d'vne belle Idée : sa plume essorée
Vole viste & haute en parolle empennée ;
Son stile d'vn beau discours portant la vraie mine.
Courage, donc ie-dis, mon amy GREENE, courage,
Mesprise des chiens, corbeaux & chathuans la rage :
Et (glorieux) endure leur malignante furie.
Zoyle arriere, arriere Momus chien enragé,
Furieux mastin hurlant au croissant argenté,
A GREENE iamais nuyre sauroit ta calomnie.

I. Eliote.

Perymedes.

THere dwelled, as the Annuall records of Egypt makes mention, in the Citie of Memphis, a poore man called Perymedes, whome Fortune enuying from his infancie, had so thwarted with contrarie constellation, that although hée had but his wyfe and him selfe to releue by his manuell labours, yet want had so wrong him by the finger, that ofte the greatest chéere they had, was hungar, and their swœtest sauce content: yet Fame willing to supplie what fortune had faulted with defect, so rewarded poore Perymedes with the glorie of report, that he was not onely loued and liked of all his neighbours, but knowen for his contented pouertie through all the Confines of Egypt. The man coueting although hée were poore, to be counted vertuous, first eschewed idlenesse, the moath that sorest and sowest infecteth the mynde with many mischiefs, and applied him selfe so to his woorks, being a Smith, that he thought no victualles to haue their taste which were not purchased by his own sweate. Proude he was not, as one whome pouertie had checked with to great disgrace, and yet we sée that selfe loue hanges in the heart not in the habite, that Plato durst say (Calco fastidium Diogenis) meaning that the poore Cynick was as insolent in his patcht cloake, as Alexander the great in all his royaltie. Enuie, of all othervices hœ did eschewe, as a cancker so pestilent to an honest minde, that it suffereth quiet not so much as to pry into the motions of the heart. Couetous he was not, as one that sought by his handes thrift to satisfie his owne necessitie: and if any surplusage were graunted by good lucke, hœ slept not soundly on saturday at night, till he his wife and his neighbours had me-

rilie and honestlie spent it at a homelie banquet. He wanted nothing, as one that against all spight of Fortune opposed patience, and against necessitie content: And yet Fortune that she might not be thought to iniurious, in lieu of all her other disfauours lent him a wife of his owne conditions, whome he loued more then himselfe, for the poore woman although she was barren and had no children, yet was she of a verie pure and perfect complexion, and withall of such good behauiour, first in loue and dutie to her husband, and then in friendly and familiar conuersation with her neighbours, that she was thought a wife fit for so honest a husband. These two thus beloued of all the inhabitants of Memphis, prescribed them selues such an order of life, as diuerse men of great calling, sought to be carefull imitators of their methode: for suffering no priuate iarres to come within their poore cottage, as a thing most preiuditiall to an Oeconomicall estate, no sooner had these two past away the day, he at his hammers, and she at the Bellowes, for boy they had none, but that sitting them selues to supper, they satisfied nature with that their labour did get, and their calling allow, and no sooner had they taken their repast, but to passe the rest of the euening merely they fell to pleasant chatts betweene them selues, sometimes discoursing of what came first in their heads, with Pro & cõtra, as their naturall logick would graunt them leaue, other while with merie tales, honest, and tending to some good end without either lasciousnesse or scorilitie, thus euer they passed away the night: and for that the Egyptians, as a great monument kept diuerse of their discouries, which some by chance had ouerheard, and put downe as a Iewell in their librarie, I meane as their recordes doe rehearse, to set downe in brieft two of their nightspractle, which although homely tolde, yet being honest and pleasant, I thought they would breede some conceipted delight to the hearers, and therefore thus.

NO sooner had Perymedes and his wyfe Delia, for so was her name, ended their dayes worke, and taken their repast, but sitting safely in their simple cottage by a little fire. Perymedes begã thus solemnly and sadlie to enter into a discourse, I can not thinke wife, but if we measure all our actions with a true proportion, that wee haue supt as daintely as the proudest in all the Cittie of Memphis, for the ende of delicates is but to satisfie nature, which is so partiall in hir desires, that were not our vitious mindes drowned in gluttonie, content would seale vp hir request with a very small pittance, but such is the course of the world now a daies, that euerie man seekes with Philoxenus to haue his necke as long as a Crane, that he may with more pleasure stoll in the sweete tast of their superfluous deinties. But wife, since I can remember here in Memphis, Psamnetichus our king, was of so sparing a diet, that being demaunded by an Ambassadour, what Caters he had for his houshold, made answere, his Cooke and his stomake: in seeming by this that his Cooke bought no more in the shambles than woulde satisfie what his stomack desired. But now wife, euery meane man must be so curious in his fare, that we are rather to be counted Epicurians than Egiptians, and our Chaldees haue more skill in a cup of wine than in a Vibrarie, which superfluitie breedeth both beggerie to manie, and diseases to all. For so they drowne them selues in the bottomlesse sea of gluttonie, as at last they make their bodies a subiect for the Physition, thinking that the temperature of their complexions can neuer be well affected, vnlesse their stomacks bee made a verie Apotecaries shoppe, by receiuing a multitude of simples and drugges, so to settle their wauering constitution: those men that wed them selues to such inordinate excesse, finde diuerse and sondrie passions to torment the stomack and all the body, which no sooner paynes them, but straight, as experiẽce is a great mistresse, they calculate the nature of the disease, and straight flye to purging, to phlebotomie, to fomentacions, & such medicinall decretals, according to the interiour or exte-

riour nature of the disease, where as perhaps some slender fault is the efficient cause of such a momentanie passion, better to be cured by time than physick. But excesse in diet (wise) breedeth this restlesse desire, and so manie are the diseases incident by our owne superfluities, that euerie one had neede to haue an Perball tied at his girdle: well I haue heard my father say, that he was but one daie sicke in all his life time, being then also through ouer much labour fallen into a feauer. And this perfect temperature of the bodie, did not proceede from the diuersities of potions and daintie delicates, but by a true proportion of exercise and diet: which Zeno the Philosopher noted well to be true, who beeing of a verie weake and tender constitution, subiect oft to sicknesse, yet neuer kept his bed. Being demaunded of a Lacedemonian, what preseruatiues he did vse, Zeno willing to be briefe in his answeres, shewed then a peece of bread & a dish of water, with a strong bowe of Steele, meaning by this Enigma to discouer vnto them, that he raced out his diseases by exercise and fasting, as two especiall pointes necessarie for the perfecting of mans health.

You say truth husband, quoth Delia, for oft haue I heard my mother say, that three thinges are the chiefest delicates, which who so vseth, shall liue long and happely: Hunger, quiet, and mirth, but to auer your sayings to be true, euerie one seekes to attaine the contrarie, which causeth such sodaine death & perilous diseases: mo perish by gluttonie than by the sworde, for in steade of hunger men seeke to satisfie nature with excesse, for quiet, enuie at others happinesse, presentes a stratageme, for mirth melancholie, and couetous humours, how most greedily to gaine, thus euerie one seekes that time and experience proues most preiudiciall, but the time hath bene, yea Perymedes, and within my remembrance, when the inhabitantes of Memphis knewe not what ryot and ill diet meant, but euery man applying him selfe to frugalitie, coueted to be thought honest and vertuous, where as nowe a daies the meanest doth desire to be thought proud and sumptuous. While Numa Pompilius banished excesse out of Rome, there was no drugges brought to the cittie from Africa: while Romulus drunke no wine, excesse was not noted

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amongst his subiects, neither had a Physition any palme in his dominions, till his successors Caligula, Nero, and the rest assigned Trophees, and Triumphs, for such as best could play the part of Epicures: and because my good Perymedes we be set alone by the fire, (and with this she recht him a friendlie Bezo les labros) and none here but our selues, thou shalt see what long I haue kept close in my chest, certaine precepts of physick that long since were giuen by one of the Caldees to Pharao the last king of Memphis, of that surname, which for that they were pretious, as wel for the doctrine as the methode, I haue kept them as deue as I did my virginitie before I met thée, and with that she hied her to her hutch, where she set out an olde peece of parchment, where was written as followeth.

Certaine preceptes of houshold physick, giuen by Rabby Bendezzar, one of the Chaldees, to Pharao the king of Memphis.

CONsidering right mightie soueraigne, that dutie breaketh not exceptions of time, but that the reuerent seruice of an honest minde is tied to his Lord, as carefully in sicknesse as in health: although want, the enemy to desire, hath not stored my librarie with Galen, Auicen, nor Hyppocrates, yet dutifull affection willing to make supplie presented from the garden of my thoughts certeine receipts, compounded of sundrie simples, which I beseech your highnesse to apply as shall best stand with your fauourable opinion.

First to present an Aphorisme which Auicen grudged to pen down, as an enemie to that science, receiue twenty ounces of merrie conceipts, pounded in the mortar of a quiet resolution, vse this pouder in your morning and euening potions, forbearing to much exercise of minde, as preiudiciall to the body: With the world the paimistresse of vertuous indeuours hath all her coffers filled with forgetfull ingratitude.

And sith sicknesse desires companie, and sondrie sorts presentes them selues to a solitarie man, vse a charme so pretious as Galen feared to bewray amidst his principles: write ouer

the end of scollarisme in an English blanck verse, I thinke either it is the humor of a nouice that tickles them with selfe-loue, or to much frequenting the hot house (to vse the Germaine prouerbe) hath swet out all the greatest part of their wits, which wasts *Gradatim*, as the Italians say *Poco à poco*. If I speake darkely Gentlemen, and offend with this digression, I craue pardon, in that I but answere in print, what they haue offered on the Stage: but leauing these phantasticall schollers, as iudging him that is not able to make choice of his chaffer, but a pedling chapman, at last to *Perymedes the Black Smith*, who sitting in his holi-dai-sute, to enter parlee with his wif, smugd vp in her best apparrell, I present to your fauors. If he please, I haue my desire, if he but passe I shalbe glad. If neither, I vowe to make amends in my *Oepharion*, which I promise to make you merry with the next tearme: And thus resting on your wonted courtesies, I bid you farewell.

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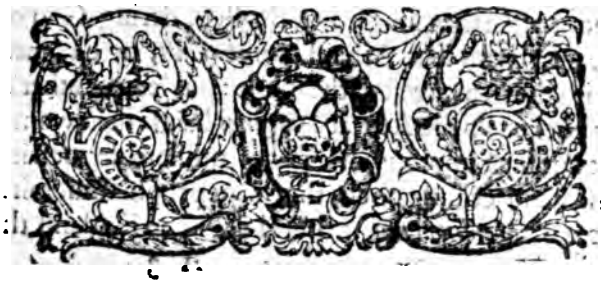

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GREENE a son Mareschal monstrant son arte diuine,
Moulé d'vne belle Idée: sa plume essorée
Vole viste & haute en parolle empennée;
Son stile d'vn beau discours portant la vraie mine.
Courage, donc ie-dis, mon amy GREENE, courage,
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You say truth husband, quoth Delia, for oft haue I heard my mother say, that three thinges are the chiefest delicates, which who so vseth, shall liue long and happely: Hunger, quiet, and mirth, but to auer your sayings to be true, euerie one seekes to attaine the contrarie, which causeth such sodaine death & perilous diseases: mo perish by gluttonie than by the sworde, for in steade of hunger men seeke to satisfie nature with excesse, for quiet, enuie at others happinesse, presentes a stratageme, for mirth melancholie, and couetous humours, how most greedily to gaine, thus euerie one seekes that time and experience proues most preiudiciall, but the time hath bene, yea Perymedes, and within my remembrance, when the inhabitantes of Memphis knewe not what ryot and ill diet meant, but euery man applying him selfe to frugalitie, coueted to be thought honest and vertuous, where as nowe a daies the meanest doth desire to be thought proud and sumptuous. While Numa Pompilius banished excesse out of Rome, there was no drugges brought to the cittie from Africa: while Romulus drunke no wine, excesse was not noted

amongst

amongst his subiects, neither had a Physition any palme in his dominions, till his successors Caligula, Nero, and the rest assigned Trophees, and Triumphs, for such as best could play the part of Epicures: and because my good Perymedes we be set alone by the fire, (and with this she recht him a friendlie Bezo les labros) and none here but our selues, thou shalt see what long I haue kept close in my chest, certaine precepts of physick that long since were giuen by one of the Caldees to Pharao the last king of Memphis, of that surname, which for that they were pretious, as wel for the doctrine as the methode, I haue kept them as deue as I did my virginitie before I met thee, and with that she hied her to her hutch, where she set out an olde peece of parchment, where was written as followeth.

Certaine preceptes of houshold physick, giuen by Rabby Bendezzar, one of the Chaldees, to Pharao the king of Memphis.

CONsidering right mightie soueraigne, that dutie breaketh not exceptions of time, but that the reuerent seruice of an honest minde is tied to his Lord, as carefully in sicknesse as in health: although want, the enemy to desire, hath not stored my librarie with Galen, Auicen, nor Hyppocrates, yet dutifull affection willing to make supplie presented from the garden of my thoughts certeine receipts, compounded of sundrie simples, which I beseech your highnesse to apply as shall best stand with your fauourable opinion.

First to present an Aphorisme which Auicen grudged to pen down, as an enemie to that science, receiue twenty ounces of merrie conceipts, pounded in the mortar of a quiet resolution, vse this ponder in your morning and euening potions, forbearing to much exercise of minde, as preiudiciall to the body: Saith the world the paimistresse of vertuous indeuours hath all her coffers filled with forgetfull ingratitude.

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And sith sicknesse desires companie, and sondrie sorts presentes them selues to a solitarie man, vse a charme so pretious as Galen feared to bewray amidst his principles: write ouer

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your chamber doze in Siluer letters, Neque medicus si morbus: by this spell you shall forbid Melancholie entrance, the forest enemie to mans helth, whose operations, as they are secret, so they are mortall. If this should faile, receiue an experiment confirmed with Probatum est. Take the sweete herbe called pleasant content, with that make a perfume about your bed chamber, and where you dyne, the sauour of this is as sure a repulse to exile melãcholie, as the Ostracisme was to the noble of Athens.

melancholie, the sorest enemy mans helth.

3 Science a monster that wayteth vpon Oportunitie, presents by her selfe to a sicke person in sondrie shapes, some bréeding profit, others preiudice to auoide hir illusion, note this: when she comes with a plausible speech, hir attier black in damaske or veluet, a side gowne, a large cape, holding in the one hand a glasse of Goates milke to restore, in the other some secret drug to purge suspect, and graunt no admittaunce, vnlesse you see about her three markes: In hir forehead the figure of myrth, in hir bosome the pourtraiture of conscience, and the mouth of her purse sealed with the signet of content, marked thus, vse hir as a friend, and send hir away rewarded.

the discrition of a musition.

the marks of a good musition.

4 In that sicknesse is passionate, and choller the herault of melancholie inflicteth many griefes by ouerflowing of the gall, to suppresse his enuious furie, take an herbe of a mild sauour, yet verie precious called patience, his vertue is restrictiue & expulsiue, knitting content to the minde, and driuing out disquiet from the thoughtes.

patience a precious simple.

5 The auncient Alcumists reposed great trust in their Philosophers stone, as the most necessarie iewell to draw out quintesses for restoratiues. But our late Phisitions haue found out a singular minerall, called Hope, applie this to your stomack as a soueraine simple against disquiet & feare, two passions incident to many patients.

Hope a singular preseruatiue.

6 Albertus Magnus in his secrets, sets downe the nature of sundrie herbes, some to procure mirth, other slaepe, according to their particular vertues, but our late practioners, haue founde a rote, whose operation comprehendeth all those properties, which they call Hearts ease, this applie to your left side both day and night, in sicknesse and in health, as a defensorie against ensuing griefes, a preseruer of present quiet, and

Harts ease a defensorie against griefe.

a medicine

a medecine generall for any passionate disease. Thus right mighte soueraigne, though not as a Phisition, for that our times and diets broke not hir axiomes, yet as a poore and dutifull wellwiller, I haue set downe sondre simples fit for receites, which if it shall stand with your highnesse good liking to applie, I shall rest as euer I haue done an earnest suter to the almightie, that their operation may take wished effect, as well for recouerie, as for preseruing your health.

Rabby Bendezzar.

They had no sooner scanned euer this writing, but Perymedes began to accuse the iniquitie of their time, that had made such difference in medicinal precepts, & therefore burst forth into these tearmes, well wife, thus fares the course of the worlde, to decline euer to the worst, for whē Rabby Bendezzar set downe these principles to Pharao, no doubt Epicures had not yet creeted any Academie in Egypt, but since his time, excesse hath taken such an interest in the mindes of men, that his reasons would be counted follies, in that euery axiome sheweth not the art of an Apothecarie, but leaning such to their follies, how happie are we that eate to liue, and liue not to eate, who count it a banquet to suffice nature with any thing, hauing our health, when greater potentates are pained with surfets. Well husband quoth Delia, seeing we are content with our pouertie, and make a vertue of necessitie, let vs not (nimis altum sapere) not stretch our strings so hie as to medle with our superiours, but rest quiet at the delight of our owne estate, and therefore seeing the night is yet long, and our fire is like to last, and this discourse sufficiently discussed, say husband, how shall we spende the rest of the euening, for what you set downe I hold for lawe. In deede wife quoth Perymedes, it is ill medling further, than the latchet: the For had his skin pulled ouer his eares, for prying into the Lyons dennes: poore men should looke no hier then their

The husbands w a law to. honest wife.

sorte, least in staring at starres they stumble. If others offend and become vitious that are rich, it little boteth vs that are poore to reprehend them, for it reapeth often reuenge, but the best reward is enuie. Clytus, who was a mightie Lord, and friend to Alexander, was slayne for his good admonition: Mightie men cannot brooke the touch of their ill, and therefore wise we will this night passe away the time in telling some pleasant and merie tale, so shall we beguile the cuening with some pleasure, eschewe idlenesse, the welspring of many mischieses, and banish vaine thoughtes, that breede disquiet and discontent, my selfe will tell one, and thou shalt tell another. Delia by being silent, seemed to consent, and so Perymedes began his tale in this manner.

Perymedes tale.

In the kingdome of Tyre, while Euribates reigned as soueraine, there gouerned vnder him as his lieutenant, one Prestynes a noble man, better beloued for his Iustice, then fauoured by fortune, who hauing a Ladie of no lesse parentage than vertue, and yet accounted the most honorable Matron in all the East parts, liued peaceably in his prouince, till Voltarus king of Sydon attempted the inuasion of Tyre, & finding fortune fauourable to his desires, made a conquest of the lande, killing Euribates, and leading Prestynes prisoner to Sydon: Which newes no sooner came to the eares of his wife Mariana, for so was hir name, but fearing the violent handes of the enemy, being big with childe, and hauing an other of two yeares of age, she with a fewe Iewels which she had kept secret in a Casket, imbarked hir selfe in a little frigot, intending hir course to Lippary, where hir friends dwelt: but fortune who ment to make hir a mirrour of hir inconstancie, as it were entring a league with Neptune, droue hir vpon the coast of Decapolis, wher perforce she was forst to lande, not remaining on shoare three dayes, before in the companie of an other gentlewoman that

was

was nourse to hir sonne, she was brought to bed of a man childe, whome she called Infortunio, distressed thus, she past away many daies till a faire winde might serue to transport hir to Lippary, which comming about according to the marriners minde, they caused the Lady to sende hir two infants a borde with their nourse, she hir selfe solitarilie walking by the shoare till the cockboate came againe to fetch hir. But the destinies who are impartiall in their resolutions, hauing intended a worse mishap, gaue hir a sorer mate in this maner: no sooner had they shipped the sely babes, but that a Barke of Coursayres and pyrates came by, who seeing this ship not greatly manned for defence, bare towardes it, and borded it, carrying away, both vessell and marriners as a pryse, which Mariana seeing, she sent forth shrikes as intreaties to persuade them to retourne, & most pittifull renting of hir hayre, made signes of hir sorrowes, but in vaine, for she gat nothing but doleful echoes of hir cõplaints, which strake such a griefe into hir minde, that she fell downe in a sounde, till at last cõming to her selfe, finding she was deprived of husband, children, cõtrie, friends, yea and left al alone in a desert, surcharged with griefe, she sat her downe by the shoare, and fell into these piteous passions.

Infortunate Mariana, whome fortune or some contrarie fate aboue fortune hath sought to make a speciall obiect of hapless and distressed miserie, seest thou not a dismall influence, to inflict a dispairing chaos of confused mishaps, art thou not first by the vniust destinies bereft of Prestynis thy husband, exiled thy countrey, a place as precious as life, seperated from thy friends, the sweetest comfort, but nowe deprived of thy children, in whose companie there did consist the salue for all the forenamed miseries. Ah Mariana, sigh and sob at these sorrowes, but what auayles showers when the harvest is past, or griefe when actions cannot be amended by passions. Nowe Mariana, dost thou see that Fortune, that fiend and graceless monster, the double faced daughter of Ianus, whose pleasure is inconstancie, whose thoughts are variable, whose temples are strewed with roses and nettles, and whose sacrifices sauour of most infectious incenses: are not all hir gifts perilous, seem they neuer so pretious: doth she

Friend counter deare to man.

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enriche thee with treasure, feare that in the other hande she holdes poverte, to checke thy presumption: doth she advaunce thee with honor and dignitie, knowe such favours are brittle, and hir brauest seates are made of glasse: if with friends, alas, she presents amidst their troupes fained affections, and flatterie: thus everie way hir favours are mortall, and the more glistring, the more preiudicial. Too late poore Ladie, hast thou tried these premisses for trueth, thy selfe an instance of hir inconstancie: What then shalt thou do, being thus infortunate: hope thou canst not, sith thy present mishap tels thee, fortune hath resolued thine overthrowe: dispaire then Mariana; dispaire and die, so shalt thou glut the ruthlesse destinies with a most balefull Stratageme: since thy husband, thy children, have bene the first actors, end thou desperatly such a lamentable tragedie: let fortune see how thou stornes to be infortunate: feare not death which is the ends of sorrowe, and beginning of blisse: but to thee Mariana, that lying in distresse, yet dye happie: let not dispaire euer enter within thy thoughts, grace not fortune so much in hir wilfulnesse, bee patient, and so fright hir with content, for hir greatest griefe is to see hir crosses borne with an indifferent minde. Time, Mariana, is the nourse of hope, and oft thwarteth fortune in hir decrees, then ehere vp thy selfe, and leade here a solitarie life in this desert, with such patience, as making a vertue of necessitie, then drowne all dispairing conceipts with content. ¶ but alas, my children, my poore babes, scarse knowen to fortune, before enuied by fortune, and with that casting hir eye to the Sea, she was so overpressed with sorrowe, as she could not vtter any worde more, but melting into teares, sat a long time in secret and sorrowefull meditation, till at last with a deepe sigh shee groned forth these wordes. Hope and patience, and with that she rose, and resolued to liue as a sauage woman, till death or some better destinie, might mitigate some part of hir martyrdome. In this resolution, she went and sought her out a Caue, which she trimmed vp, with boughes, making hir in stede of hir beddes of downe, a couch of mosse, and leaues: hir sauce was hunger: hir food, the fruites of the earth. And thus she lay there by the space of two or three yeere, vnseene, or vnknowen of any body. Fortune not knowing hir owne bitternesse,

ternesse, seeing how patient the Ladie was in hir miseries, determined to adde some reliefe to hir passions, which thus brought to passe in this manner. The Despot of Decapolis and his wife, for solace sake, being one day, rode on hunting, by chaunce, in pursuite of a Stagge, which they had in chace, lost their way, and happened into that desert where they had not wandred long, but they met Mariana in sauage manner, almost naked, her haire of amber couler, hanging downe to hir feete, hir face shrincled, and parched with the Sunne, in so much as thus disguised, and deformed, as well with hir ill diet, and the weather, as with hir sorrowe, she seemed some Satire, borne and bread in that desert. The Despot and his wife, amazed at this sodaine sight, stode still, narrowly marking the gesture of Mariana, who was playing with a little Fawne, which she had noursed vp, till at last she casting vp hir eyes, and seeing them there, arose hastely, & was ready to depart, but the Despot, who desired to know what she might be, drawing more nie, perceiued by the lineament of hir face, that she had bene a woman of good proportion, began to salute hir in this maner. Woman, Satyre, Nymphe, or whatsoeuer thou be, that liuest thus as a sauage creature, in the deserts, tell me of courtesie, as to a straunger that pities thy estate, whether thou be bred here, and so naturally wedded to this brutish kinde of life: or if some missortune hath led thee to this extreame mishap, that so either I may marueile at such a strange breede, or els both pittie, and seeke to relieue thy miserie. Mariana hearing the Despot speake thus honorably and friendly, made no answere at all, but staring in his face, called to remembrance hir former estate, and shamed at hir present wretchednesse, so that the teares standing in hir eyes, the burden of euermuch sorrowe made hir a long while silent, yet at last comming more nere, she made him this answere.

Curteous straunger, if I ouerslip either dutie or reuerence, due to thy calling, thinke my sauage life leades me to such ignorance, and therefore the more worthie of pardon, but whatsoeuer thou be, king or keisar, know this, I am no Satyr, but a woman distressed, and placed here by the enuie of fortune, where time and patience hath learned me to liue content: for thy pitie I returne thankes, as one whome these

Ingratitude neuer vsed.

wretes haue not yet pierced with ingratitude, for thy reliefs I refuse it as a thing contrarie to my resolutiõ, for in this life, I meane to die. No sooner had she made this reply, but she was tourning hir back, had not the Despots wife intreated hir to tell the course of hir abode in these desertes, and of what parentage shée was: Mariana hearing the Ladie pitifull, though importunate, began to resolue hir in this maner. Madame, for no lesse your countenance and behauiour imports, long it were to discourse of my former estate, & a taske worse than death, to recount my misfortunes, sith the rubbing of halfe healed scarres, would but renewe olde sores, which should greue me greatlie to rehearse, and would little profit you to heare, yet some what to satisfie your demand: know, I once tasted of honor, as descended from noble parentes, and as you, and felt my selfe safe, seated in pleasure: wealth I had, as fauoured with rich possessions, but nowe fates that cannot be auoyded, and fortune that will be mistresse of hir decrees, taught me honor was brittle, and riches as blossomes, that euerie frost of fortune, can cause to wither: so that both dishonored and poore, yet I liue more happie, for that I haue opposed my minde against all mishaps, not caring for fortune, because I loue for fortune. Thus Madame, you haue heard what I haue bene, and see what presently I am. The Despot seeing she would faine be gone, hearing she was of honorable parentage, stept more nigh, & tooke hir by the hand, adiuring by the loue she euer bare to him she liked best, that she would tell hir name, hir countrie, and the cause of hir abode in these deserts. Mariana a long while vnwilling, and yet at last ouercome with their importunacie, discoursed vnto the whose wife she was, and from point to point discouered the fore rehearsed premises. The Despot and his wife, who knew very well Prestines, hearing such a tragicall Catastrophe, tooke such compassion of the Ladie, that sitting downe by hir, they fell into teares, which ouerpast, they sought by persuasions to driue hir from that miserable resolution, the Despots wife offering hir to be second Ladie and mistresse in hir house, wher she should be entertained, not as a friend only, but as hir owne sister. Mariana [illegible] thankefull, but not to be intreated, till at last woune with such earnest protestations, she graunted to go with

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go with them, which greatly contented the Despot, so that casting his mantell about hir, and taking hir vp behind him, he roade forward to seeke his companie, whome when he had found, leauing all his sport, he hied home to his house, a ioyfull man of such an incounter. Where we leaue him, and retourne to the Coursayers and Pyrates, who comming at last with their pryse to Japhet, a promõtorie seated by the sea, they solde the nourse and the two children to the gouernour of the citie, who was called Lamoraq;, being brother to the Despot of Decapolis, who when they came to age, kept them vp as slaues, setting thē to all kinde of drudgerie: the nourse although of meane parentage, yet passing wise, feared to bewray from whence the children were issued, and therefore called them hir owne sonnes, naming the eldest, whose name was Castriot, Procidor, but the yongest she suffered to retaine his syrname. The children thus kept seruile, and miserable, being come to some yeares of discretion, their nourse tolde the eldest whose sonne he was, charging him vpon his life not to bewray his progenie, least it might be greatly preiudiciall to his estate, but to content him selfe with hope, till time did allowe better fortune. Procidor, for so we will now call him, as he grewe in yeares, so he grew in wisedome, that he couertly concealed what his nourse gaue him in charge: And as the Palme tree cannot be brought from his height by pressing downe, nor the Diamont bereaued of his vertue, though he be set in brasse. So Procidor, although he was in the state of a slaue, poore, miserable, and acquainted with labours, yet his minde reaching at honor, began to be impatient of commande, so that in a day, finding fit opportuntie, without taking his leaue of his nourse, he shipt him selfe in a barke of Alexandria, to seeke his fortune, where passing away three or foure yeeres at the seas, and getting little or no preferment, hearing also that his father (whome he supposed to be dead) was yet liuing, and prisoner in Sydon, as one in dispaire, and past hope, he traueled many straunge countries, till at last he came to Decapolis, where he had not long bene resident, but the Despot seeing him a young youth, verie well proportioned, of good grace, and of a resolute disposition, intertained him into his seruice, so that hee liued in the house with his

Pouerti hinders not wisdome.

 mother

mother vnknowen, for the space of a yeare: in which time, Marcella the daughter of the Despot, noting the perfection of Procidor, began at the altars of Vesta to offer smoaking thoughts at the shryne of Venus. For womens eyes delight in the varietie of obiectes, the mayde seeing that the sharpnesse of his wit (a sparke that sweet inflameth desire) was answerable to the shape of his bodie, and that his minde was adorned with so many sundrie good qualities: that if his fortune had bene equall to his face, his deserts might haue made him a Prince, she began so farre to enter into the considerations of his vertues, that hazarding too rashlie into so dangerous a labyrinth, she felt hir minde begin to alter, and hir affections to stoope to such a state as repent she might, but recall she could not. But taking these thoughts for passionat ioyes, that might be thrust out at pleasure, cursing loue that attẽpted such a chaunge, and blaming the basenesse of hir minde, that would make such a choice, to auoide the Syren that inchanted hir with such deceitfull melodie, she called to hir bedfellowe Mariana for a Lute, whereupon warbling a merie galliard, she thought to beguile such vnacquainted passions, but finding that musicke was but to quench the flame with oyle, feeling the assaultes to bee so sharpe as hir minde was ready to yelde as vanquished: she began with diuers considerations to suppresse the franticke affections, calling to minde that Procidor was hir fathers seruant, a man of meane and base paretage, for his birth not to be looked at of the daughter of a Despot, much lesse to be loued of one of hir degree, thinking what a discredit it were to hir selfe, what a griefe to hir parents, what a sorrowe to hir friendes, yea, what a mightie shame should be guerdon to such a mõstrous fault. Blaming fortune, and accursing hir owne follie, that should be so fond as but once to harbour such a thought, as to stoope so lowe as to hir fathers hyerling. As thus she was raging against hir selfe, loue feared if she dallied long, to lose her Champion, and there feare stepping more nigh, gaue hir such a fresh wound as pierst hir at the verie heart, that she was faine to yelde, maugre hir former considerations, and forsaking all companie, to get hir in hir closet, where being solemnlie set, she burst forth into these passionate teares.

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Vnhappie

Vnhappie Marcella, hath fame hetherto feared to speake ill of thy thoughts, and shall report dare to misconstrue of thine actions, hath Decapolis honoured thée for thy vertues, and shall now all the worlde wonder at thée for thy vanities, hast thou vowed thy selfe to Vesta, and wilt thou runne after Venus? wilt thou be counted a president of virginitie, and yet subject thy selfe to vnbridled fancies? No Marcella, there is no sweeter friend than libertie, nor no worse enemy than inconsiderate affection: the thoughtes of Ladies, Marcella, as they are worthy, so ought they to looke no lower than honor, Blush then at thy fortunes, thy choice, thy loue, sith thy thoughts cannot be contrived without secret shame, nor thy affections vttered without open discredit: farre are these fancies, or rather follies, vnfit for thy byrth. Hast thou not heard Marcella as an oracle from Apollo, that it is better to perish with high desire, then to liue in base thoughts. And yet Procidor is beautifull, a fauour fond fole framed to feede the eye, not to fret the heart: he is wise, truth, but poore, and want is an enemy to fancy: Tush, being both beautifull and wise, why should he not be loued, wilt thou so farre forget thy selfe, as to suffer affection to intangle thee with such bad coniectures? no, consider how such a match will be most difficult to thy father, most grieuous to thy friendes, preiudiciall to thy selfe, and most gladsome to thy foes, the greatest griefe of all, sith the smyle of a foe that proceedeth from enuie, is worse then the teare of a friend that commeth of pittie. These premisses then duely considered, preferre not a Barly corne before a precious Iewell: set not a fading content before a perpetuall dishonour: suppresse thy affections, and cease to loue him whō thou could not loue, vnlesse blinded with to much loue. As thus she was perplexed with sundrie passions, Mariana came to seeke hir in hir closet, whereupon she ceased hir complaintes, hoping that time would weare out that which fond loue and fortune had wrought, but all was in vayne: for so did the remembrance of her late conceiued loue, alienate hir thoughts from hir wonted disposition, that shame and dishonor, the greatest preuenters of mischeef, were no meanes to diswade hir from hir determined affection, for so much that not possible to hydeffire in the straw, [illegible] another in

Vnpossi to cōce loue,

fancy

fancy in youth, she bore such a fauourable countenance to Procidor, that not only hir selfe, but the rest of the house marueiled at hir submisse familiaritie. Yet in that she had hetherto troden hir shoe so euen, as no steppe was so much as thought awry, they construed all to the best, and thought hir fauours toward Procidor proceeded as a reward for his vertues, not from a regarde to his beauite. But at last being Venus scholler, and therefore daring with hir to daunce in a net, played not so close, but Procidor could indge of colours, and espye of the halfe what the whole ment, puffed vp therefore a little in conceipt with the fauour of his maisters daughter, seeing opportunitie layde hir hairie forehead on his lappe, he began somewhat peartlie to prie into the exquisitnesse of hir perfection: noting that she was passing beautifull, and young, and that vertue added a grace vnto nature, and that being of noble parentage, beautie decked nature with dignitie. This interchange cõsidered, so charmed the poore gentlemans affections, that fayne he would haue made requitall of hir fauours with like courtesie, if hir honourable estate had not quatted his presumption with feare: houering thus betweene two streames, at last he burst forth into these complaintes.

Doest thou not know poore Procidor, that actiõs wrought against nature, reape despight, and thoughts aboue fortune, disdaine: that what byrd gaseth against the Sunne, but the Eagle, becommeth blinde, and that such as step to dignitie, if vnkit, fall: that thoughtes are to be measured by fortunes, not by desires: how fallẽs come not by stouping lowe, but by clymming to hie. Shall therefore all feare to aspyre, because some hap to fall? no Procidor, though thou art in ragges, yet thou art noble borne, thou art not inferiour to Marcella in byrth, though in riches: then dare to attempt, sith she shewes thee such manifest fauours. Ah nouice in loue, doest thou count euery dimple in the cheeke a decree in the heart, euery lims a warrant of loue, Venus, fond man, looke on more than the loued, or else the passing amorous: womens smiles are oft more of custome than of courtesie, and passing prodigall they bee with their eyes when they are nyggardes in their hearts: for thinke not fond man that Eagles will catch at flyes, Cedars stoope to brambles, nor such honorable dames at such homely peasants,

peasants, no no, thinke hir disdaine is greater than thy desire, for accounting thee but a slaue, and hir fathers mercenarie man, she doth but repay thy labours with affabilitie, therefore cease not onely to say, but to thinke she loues thee.

Procidor with these pithie perswasiõs, somewhat appeasing the sparkling flames of loue, that already were kindled in his breast, applied him selfe to his wonted labour, suppressing his affections with the due consideration of hir honour, and his owne meane estate, and coũting it frenzie, not fancie, to couet that which the very destinies woulde denie him to obtaine. These two thwarted thus with feare and shame, lingreth forth the time, till at last fortune willing to present in a sweete figge bitter wormewood, found such fit opportunitie, that Procidor and Marcella met at such leysure, that not long after, Marcella was knowen to be with childe, which newes no sooner came to the eares of the Despot, but as a mã in raged furie, and reuenge, driuing reason out of conceipt, he presently caused Procidor to be apprehended, and his daughter Marcella, resolving that according to the law of the countrey, they should die. The mother more pitifull, considering the follies of hir owne youth, began to intreate hir husband to spare their liues, and assigne what punishment els, though the torture were neuer so grieuous: which by long perswasion, he consented vnto, committing them vnto straight prison, where they lay in great distresse the space of ten weekes, before euer the Despot made any question of their imprisonment. While thus Procidor lay sorrowing, more for the mishap of Marcella than for his own misfortune: newes was brought to *Decapolis*, that Euribates sonne had gathered an host, and sought to driue Voltarus out of the Confines of Tyre, which Procidor hearing, he began thus to meditate with him selfe. Vnhappy Procidor, see how we fortune intending thy good the hapless fates seeke to frustrate such successe, hast thou these fourteen yeeres, gone as a vacabonde about the world vnknowen and despised, hoping for this day, that Euribates sonne should seeke reuenge on Voltarus, and art thou now in prison, when opportuntie offreth such good fortune, yea and in such a place as nought but death can redeme thee. The Jaylor ouerhearing Procidor, asked him what he

 had

had to doe with the peace or warres of Princes. Ah my good friend (quoth he) when I consider in what estate my father whilome liued in that coũtrey, as I haue heard, and am able almost to remember, I cannot but grone to see my present ill happe: And who was thy father (quoth the Jaylor) being, answered Procidor, that time hath set the sonne of Euribates almost in his kingdome, I feare not to discouer what I am, my fathers name is Prestines, Lieutenant of Tyre, vnder Euribates, & my name not Procidor, but Castriot, and I doubt not but if I were there, for my fathers sake to reape credit and authoritie. Without further questioning, the Jaylor went presently and tolde the Despot what he had heard, who making small account of the matter, yet presently considered with him selfe, if it were true, howe greatly he should by making such a marriage, auoyde the shame like to befall to his daughter, therefore he went & asked of Mariana what her eldest sonnes name was, who made answere Castriot, & that if he liued, he was about twentie yeares of age, the Despot suspecting it was he, went secretly to the prison, where examining Procidor of al his life past, found by probable circumstances that he was Prestines sonne, whereupon he began to recount vnto him howe he toke him into his seruice, placing him in his fauour, then the iniurie he offred him by infringing his daughters honor, yet for all this, crauing no other amends, but that he would take hir to wife. Procidor made answere, what he had done was the faults of his youth, and that he was both sorrowfull and repentant, and that he might thinke it firme loue, and not fading fancie that forst him to commit such a fault, he was ready at his pleasure to take Marcella to his wife. The Despot seeing sparkes of his fathers courage in his resolutions, embraced him, and sending for his daughter into the same prison, there secretly betrothed each to other, then toke them out, and sent them to a graunge place of his in the countrey: within short time they recouered their former complexions greatly impaired by their close imprisonment. In the meane space the Despot prouiding all things necessarie for the marriage, seeing they were retourned into the former fourme, caried his wife, and madame Mariana, to his graunge, where by the way he demaunded of hir,

howe

how happy it would be vnto hir, if he did marrie his daughter to hir eldest sonne Castriot. Madame Mariana smiling, told him, it was impossible, sith she thought him dead: being well arriued at his farme, he brought his wife & the Ladie into the chamber where the two louers sate, very richely apparelled, vnto whom at large he discouered what had happened. When Mariana knewe hir sonne Castriot, noting very well the liniaments of his face, she fell in a sound for ioye, but being at last reuiued, after many and hertie embracings, and ioy on al partes, they sat downe to dinner: Castriot desiring the Despot that he would send to Iaphet where was one Lamoraq; Gouernour of the towne, that helde his yonger brother & his nourse, as slaues. This motion was greatly agreable to the Despot, so that he presently sent a messenger to Iaphet, and an other to Tyre, to heare of the estate of Prestines: The messengers making as much speede as winde and weather would permitte, arriued fortunately at their desired places, where no sooner the one was arriued, but he deliuered his embassage to Lamoraq, who musing to heare such newes from his brother, the *Despot*, went to confirme his doubt the more, and subtely examined the nourse, who confessed as before, whereupon to satisfie his brother, and requite the great iniurie he had proferred to young Infortunio, hauing but onely one daughter of the age of fourteene yeares, he gaue hir with a great dowry to the poore Gentleman, and withall shipping him selfe in a frygot, with his daughter, his sonne in laue, and the nourse, he sayled to *Decapolis*, at whose arriuall great ioy being made betweene Mariana and hir two sonnes, the marriage of the Gentlemen, was sollemnised the next weeke after, and to increase theirein content, newes was brought that Euribates sonne hauing subdued Voltarus, and recouered his kingdome, he had set Prestines in former place and authoritie. This newes greatly delighting the companie: When the marriage feast was ended, the Ladie and hir two sonnes, with their wiues, taking leaue of the Despot, and Lamoraq, sailed to Tyre, where they were most louingly entertained by Prestynes.

Perymedes hauing ended his tale, his wife Delia, raging against fortune, that thus most enuious to them that were

most honorable, said that poore men were like little shrubs, that by their basenesse escaped many blastes, when high and tall Cedars were shaken with euerie tempest: concluding therefore, that Mediocria were most firma, seeing her fyre was out, and the night somewhat colde, they both hyed themselues to bed.

The second nights discourse.

The day was no sooner spent in labour, but the poore Smith and his wife, according to their accustomed manner, after supper would not be idle. but sitting close by the fire, Delia brought out an olde payre of Cardes, to passe away ẏ time at play, whereupon Perymides taking occasion, began to discourse in this manner. These Cardes (wife) may rightly be tearmed Glucupilica sweete & sower, double faced, bearing in their foreheads pleasures and peaces, & in their backes sorrowes & Stratagemes, presenting vs with delicates, which in the mouth taste like hony. but in the maw more bitter than Gall, for although we vse them for recreation to passe away the time, yet other ayme at two endes, Lucre and Couetousnesse, and yet their gaines but losse of time. And the effects of gaming here now a dayes in Memphis, as they are many, so they are monstruous, as quarels, murders, blasphemies, swearing, and cousinage, yea the ouerthrowe of houses and families, testifying the infamous nature therof. Chilon the Lacedemonian, being sent in Ambassage to Corinth, to treate of a league betwirt those two cities, finding the Rulers playing at dice, retourned back without once speaking of his commission, saying that he woulde not Eclipse the glorie of the Spartanes with so great an ignomie as to ioyne them in societie with dice players. Delia hearing hir husband enuying so much against playing, thinking he did it to check hir desire to play at Cardes, began thus to defend it.

And woulde you haue ye husband so farre from recreation in

in Memphis, as to be Stoikes or Cyniks, well had I allowed (husband) of your speeches, if they had sauoured of anie exception, but so strict an inuectiue deserues some Apologie, and therefore by your fauour husband, thus, I denie not but those effectes which you repeated as frutes of gaming, are greatly preiudiciall, both to the minde and bodie, but they proceede not of necessitie, as causa sine qua non, but as infections that flowe from the abuse, being growen into an extremitie. For we see that many things which of them selues are good, by excesse growe into the nature of euill, and so of this: for Salomon, whose deuine wisedome was without comparison, set downe his censure of time, that as there were daies of sorrow, so were there houres of mirth, that the minde had as well pastimes to recreate, as serious affaires to fatigate. Cato the most seuere Censor that was euer in Rome, amongst all his straight edictes, did not vtterly abolish gaming, but allowed the Purpurati to spende certaine houres at such pastimes as they thought necessarie, saying, that moderate sport was a whetstone to the memorie. I haue heard the Chaldees say, that the Lydians were the first inuenters of Cardes and Dice, and other games, and by them preserued a long time the estate of their common wealth, which otherwise should haue bene ruinated and subiected. Perymides hearing his wife to alledge such sound reasons for Gamsters, thought to ioyne action with her in this manner.

You resemble wife those subtill Lawyers, that onely alledge that clause in their euidence, which best serues for the proofe of their plea, leauing out all other pronisdes that are hurtfull in deede, I remember I haue heard that the countrey of Lidia, being oppressed with a great dearth and scarcitie of victualles, had almost subuerted their estate with famine, but that to resist, and sustaine hunger the better, they inuented playes and gaming, spending euery other day in such sports without any meate, which they continued for the space of twentie and eight yeares, by that pollicie preseruing their countrey from a generall famine, by sparing so carefully their pronision. But wife, the case is altred in vs, we are so farre from recompencing the fault of so vile an occupation by fasting, that contrariwise, we foster it vp with all kinde of dis-

 solutenesse,

solutenesse, gluttonie, riot, and superfluitie, in so much that we are not ashamed nowe adayes to vse this prouerbe (that a man had better lose than to be idle) but if those lewd Philosophers, which set downe this principle, knewe their inestimable losse, not of mony which they abuse, but of the riches and most pretious thing that may be spent, and which can neuer be recouered: I meane time, they would be ashamed of their doctrine, that to lose is worse than to be idle, because it is ioyned with so bad an action as of necessitie redoundeth to the detriment of him selfe, or of his neighbour, yea, and oftentimes of both. And yet because the nature of man is not able to abide continuall labour, & occasion of busnesse is not alwayes offered, we may with our Chaldees in their Academies followe this precept, that time spent in honest pastime or game, of moderate pleasure, may be set downe in the register of happie dayes, as howres not greatly dissonant from vertuous imeuours, neither, saith Scipio, is gaming blame worthie, if we vse it as rest and slēpe, after we haue ended & dispatched our busnesse. I am glad (quoth Delia) that you allowe vs any time to play. I am not so strict quoth Perymides, but this discourse wife is farre from the purpose, therefore seeing we haue yet halfe the euening to spende, and I haue no delight to play at Cardes, let me heare thee tell a tale, to requite yesternightes chat: Delia nothing dainty with hir husband, taking the tongs in hir hand, to keepe the fire in reparations, began in this manner.

Delia hir tale.

IN the Ile of Lyppary, there dwelled sometime a Gentleman of good parentage, as descended from worshipfull and honest parents, learned by education, as trained vp amongst the Philosophers in their academies, vertuous in his actions, as putting in practize those principles which he hearde in their Scholes, as Arions: generally, well nourtred, in so much that he liued in

very

very good account in the Iland. This Gentleman called Alcimides, although fauoured thus with sondrie good qualities, yet was greatly enuied by loue and fortune, for his wãt was such, as his reuenewes were nothing answerable to his minde, but lived poorely, and yet contentedly in meane estate. Fancie seeing fortune frowne, to fill vp the tragedie, presented him with the sight of a young Gentlewomã, called Constance, whose being both wise and beautifull: two perswasions sufficient to induce affection, was so narrowly marked of Alcimides, as he thought no obiect to fit his eie but her person, nor no melodie to please his eare, but the sound of her modest and graue communication. Snared thus with the consideration of this young Gentlewoman at the first, he found waies to proffer hir roses and perfumes, but at the last pilles, and hemlock. For the young virgin hearing of the vertuous disposition of Alcimides, and seeing his minde was as well garnished with good qualities, as his bodie with proportion, vsed lex talionis, and repaied him loue for loue, so farre as his honestie might desire, & her honor admitte: in so much that nothing was wanting in the accõplishment of their thoughtes, but her fathers consent: who being moued by Alcimides in the matter, flatly denied, and made this obiection, that he was to poore to make his daughter any sufficient ioynter. Which answere so mazed Alcimides, that in a desperate mode, acquainting certaine friendes with his purpose. He rigged forth a ship to sea, with full resolution, either to retourne rych, or to leaue his louer and him selfe in the bosome of Neptune. Upon which determination resting, he loised with his companions from Lypãrie, & in manner of mart, made hauock on ẏ Coast of Barbarie, so that in short time he became very rich, but insatiate couetise, that like the serpent Hidaspis is euer a thiefe, so haled him to the hope of more rich purchase, that at last he and all his men were taken by the Sarrasins, and carried away prisoners into Thũnes. The newes of this mishap, as report must euer be prattling, came flying to the Ile of Lypary, that the ship wherein Alcimides and his souldiours was imbarqued, was drowned in the Coast of Barbarie: Constance no sooner heard of this cursed Stratagemme, but she determined to ende these miseries with death, and that in

the

the sea, that she might imitate Alcymides, who was reported to perish in the same Element: to the ende therefore, hir purpose might the more easily be brought to passe. Constãce walking downe to the shoare, found a little fisher boate readis furnished, with mast, sayles & other prouision, floating in the the hauen. Which Constance espying, taking this for good occasion, she speedely went into the boat, and as well as she could: as the women of that Iland are most skilfull in naugation, haled forth into the maine, and there comuitted hir selfe to the mercis of the waue and winding, thinking by this meanes to procure sonest hir fatall ende, sith so many accidents were readie, as death & daunger euerie minute. Passed thus two or three dayes alongst the Coast, till at last a Southeast wynde, driue the ship vpon the shoare of Barbarie. The Barke thus beaten vp, there was at that present in the same place a poore woman, who made cleane the fishermens nets, which seeing the ship so roughly arriued, thought the Marriners had bene a sleepe, to warne them therefore of their landing, she went vp the hatches and found none, in so much that seeking further, she found this young Gentlewoman fast a sleepe, as one secure and careless of hir missortune, whome the poore fisherwife waking, perceiuing by hir apparell, that she was a Christian, demaunded in the latine toung of whence she was, and the cause of hir so straunge imbarking. Constance risen as it were from a dreame, hearing one speake latine, thought she had beene driuen back againe to Lypary: but casting hir eye about, and seeing hir selfe in an vnknowen Coast, she craued of the woman the name of the countrey, who tolde hir, she was in Barbarie, neare a cittie called Sufe. Which greatly grieued Constance, that hir death was prolonged, by such a luklesse aduenture: so that fearing some dishonour in so barbarous a countrey might befall hir virgins estate, she sat her downe and wept. The poore woman taking pittie of hir passions, caried hir home to hir little cottage, and there as well as she might, so comforted the distressed maide, that she tolde hir from point to point, the some of this hapless accident: and greiue so farre in familiaritie, that Constance demaunded of hir what she was, who made answere, that she was of Trapany, a seruant to certaine

fishers,

fishers, his name Mawdleyne: Constance seeing she was a Christian, and could speake Latine very perfectlie, began to intreate hir that she would for the loue of their religion and faith, tell her what course she had best take, that she remaine for a time safe without preiudice either of honor or honestly: Mawdleyne a woman of good and vertuous disposition, told her that there was a Sarrazen widow in the Citie, of vertuous life and good conscience, whose house was oft a sanduary for the distressed, there she durst assure hir selfe she might for a time remaine, till time and opportunitie should better prouide for her estate: Constance glad of this newes desired Mawdleyne to fauour hir with the benefit of that seruice: who willing to pleasure her before two dayes were past, setting all things to hir minde in order, went with Constance to the widowes house, who hauing heard before of Mawdleyne of this maide, gaue her verye good untertainement, & as one pittying hir distresse, heard hir sorrow with teares and remorse: well, Constance thus placed, being in the company of sundry other maides that wrought needle-worke, so applied hir selfe to hir labour, that not only by hir diligence she procured hir mistresse fauour, but by hir courtesie, the generall loue & good liking of all hir fellowes. Remaining thus quiet, though not satisfied, fortune willing after so sharpe a Catastrophe, to induce a comicall conclusion, tempered hir storme with this pleasant calme: Alcymedes lying thus in prison, hauing no hope to recouer his freedome, but looking euerye daye to be condemned perpetuall slaue to the Galleys, newes came that a Nobleman of great reputation, dignitie & power, had made claime to the kingdome of Thimes, as his owne, and ment by the sworde to take it from Marcucio that then presentlye possest it: this report comming to the eares of the prisoners, Alcimedes who knew very well to speake the Barbarian tong, told his keeper, that might it please him to bring him to the kings presence, hee would take such order with his grace, as hee should in despight of fortune remaine conqueror. The

Taylor seeing the request was of importance, told it presently to his Highnesse, who in great hast sent for Alcimides, who gathering the king and his Nobles together, discouered vnto them such a peece of politike seruice, that they all consented to let Alcimedes haue the leading of the vaward, who vndertaking the charge, as a man greatly experienced in martiall discipline, carried his men in squadrons and troupes so artificially, as his warlike skil did greatly encourage the souldiers: hauing thus set his men in arraye marching forward to meete the enimy, when the battailes were within vew and readye to ioyne: Alcymedes taking the King by the hand, presented him to the face of all his armie, and then began to incourage them on this manner:

I néed not worthie Gentlemen and Souldiers of Barbarie, séeke to incourage you with a long discourse, vnlesse putting Oyle in the flame, I should put a spur to a frée Horse: your former valiant resolutions manifested in manye battailes, the honor whereof still glories your name with renowme, assures me, were the enimie like the sands of the sea, and Mars himselfe opposed against our forces, yet the quarrell good, and our minds armed with inuincible fortitude (the vertue that dareth fortune in hir face) maugre fates and destinies, you shall, as euer you haue done, returne with an honorable conquest. And for that the cause toucheth your King, who counteth himselfe a fellow-partner in your fortunes, sée he presents himselfe as the first man in the battaile, and last man in the field, vnlesse death giue him a princelie quittance of his kingdome: let him be a myrror this day of your magnanimitie, let his actions be your presidents, presse but as far as your Generall, & courage Gentlemen, the victory is ours: sée how your sorrowfull Countrymen, onelye animated by the rebellious perswasion of a traitor, stands to receiue vs, whose cowardize scarse dare march a foote to meete vs: I sée, yea I sée, in their very faces, the portrature of feare, and therefore Gentlemen, God and our Right, and with that he put spurs to his horse, and gaue

a furious

a furious and valiant onset vpon the enemy.

The king ashamed to performe any lesse then Alcimides had promised, taking a strong lance in his hand, pulling downe his Beuier, rusht most furiouslie vpon the enemie: his Souldiers noting the vnlookt-for courage of their King, followed with such a desperate resolution, that the enimie amazed at the valour of Martucio, who like a Lion, massacring whom he met, ran without stop through the troupes, they laid downe their weapons without any great slaughter. But Martucio forgetting they were his native Countreymen and his subiects still raged, till meeting him that made claime to the crowne, in single combat he slewe him princely in the field: stayed at last by one of his Lords, who told him the battell was ended by the submission of his subiects, who were ashamed that they had beene so forgetfull of their allegeance, causing the retreat to be sounded, he peaceablie marched on toward Susa, where putting certaine of the cheefe offenders to the sworde, he sent the rest home in quiet. The victorye ended, the King presently sommoned a parlament, where with the consent of all his Commons & Nobilitie, hee proclaimed peace and distressed Alcimides Duke of Tunize, and caused him to ride through the Cittie with a Garland of Bayes on his head, and Princely robes, in great and sumptuous magnificence. Being thus aduanced, the report thereof came vnto the eares of Constance, who now knowing him aliue & in great authoritie, whome long since she held for dead, she conceiued such inward ioye, that she could not but outwardlye commit the sum of hir minde to the Gentlewoman with whome she diweit, who pittying hir plaints, promised as soon as opportunitie would giue her leaue, to manifest the matter to Alcimides: Constance impacient of delayes would not let the old Gentlewoman take no rest, till one morning she went to Alcimides, and told him that a certaine Gentlewoman was come from Lippary, who desired to speake with him in secret: Alcimides courteous, as one whome honor had not made

proud, thanked the widow for hir paines, and went home to her house, where she presented him with the sight of Constance: Alcimedes hearing long before that she was dead, stood amazed at the sudden aduenture, but the poore soule whome loue stunge at the verye heart, could not abstaine, but blushing, leapt about his necke, bewaying her ioye in teares.

Alcimedes the most ioyfull man aliue for so happy an encounter, after many swete imbrasings past, demaunded the cause & meanes how she came into Barbarie, who recounting the fore rehearsed discourse, greatly gladded Alcimides for the finding of so trustie and true a frend: Long he stayed not but that he reuealed this comicall Historie to the King, who desirous to see the Paine, entertained hir with great and princelie courtesie, and with all speed to both their contents, solemnized the mariage, which past, he sent them according to their calling riche home to their frends in Lippary.

Delia hauing ended her Tale, Perimedes began to take occasion to talke of the inconstancie of Fortune, who onelye coueted to be counted variable in all her actions, for, quoth he, I tell the wife, I haue séene in my time many rich men, who lived secure in the abundance of their wealth, driuen to such extreame pouertie, that their superfluitie was net more then their ensuing want, & many baze peasants by hir flatterye be so hoisted vp to the top of her wauering wheele, as they bee potentates and mightie men of the earth, but her fauours are such as they include misfortune, and when she presents the most comicall shewes, then she intends the most bateful and dismall stratagemes, as the instance of Alexander the great may serue for a president, who in twelue yeares making a conquest of the whole world, and so flattered by Fortune as he séemed to holde hir fauours in his owne hand amidst his most glór and greatest glorye, was cowardlye poysoned in Babilon. At this Perimedes was readye to enter into a long discourse, his Wife Delia told him the night was farre spent, whereuppon taking his wiues motion for a warning, commanding

manding hir to *Couure le feu*: the poore Smith and his Wife went to Bed.

The third nights exercise.

The next day being a solempne day of sacrifice obserued amongst the Ægyptians Perimedes shutting vp his shop as one that feared to giue the least occasion of offence tying his deuotion to the Gods, his obedience to his king, his loue to his neighbours, and his will to the lawe, causing his wyfe to honor the festiuall Rytes with her best rayment, him selfe ietting in his holy-day Cassocke went to the temple, where offring vp his oraysons after the Ægyptian manner: the Flamins & Rabins hauing expounded their lawes, the poore Smith and his wife returned home to dinner, where hauing taken such repast as fitted their diet & was agreeable to their poore preparation: Perimedes to disgest his great chére, with a litle chat began on this máner: noting to day wife (quoth he) at ý temple, certaine of our great Lords of Aegypt whose beds are framed of Arabian bisse, whose houses stuffed within with plate and outwardly decked & adorned with such curious worke of porphurine, as nature in thé sémeth to be ouerlaboured with arte: Their ports glistring like the pallace of the Sun, shew to all passengers wonders, to be written in ý registers of their memories: But wife, when these great Potentates of the Earth came to discouer their inward deuotion at their offertorie in giuing to the Gods, and the poore, I perceiued them miserable, & so corrupted in the conceit of their owne wealth, that I cryed out in my thoughts, these men are poorer then Perimedes: For I tell thee Delia, this haue I heard of the ancient Caldees, whose bookes were burned with their bones, that he onelye is riche, which abandoning all superfluities resteth contented with what Fortune hath fauoured him, his

estate not pinched with such pouertie, but he may liue honestlye and vertuouslye: who so resolute in this content maketh not his thoughts and passions subiect to the restlesse desire of gaine, *Is vere habetur diues*, for wife, the minde is the touchstone of content, and holdeth the ballance that proportioneth quiet or disquiet to Kings: for Pharao our great Prince is not therfore fortunate, for that he is inuested with the diademe, for his Crowne resteth in the lap of Lachesis, and the destinies may deprive him of his dignitie this night: Kings as they haue crownes, so they haue cares, and in passing vnto pleasure, they step vpon thornes, and run ouer a sea of Glasse: not therefore riche for that they are kings, vnles content with his annuall reuenues, & satisfied with such limits as are left to the Pharaos: resting thus he is both a king and rich, in that seated amidst the glories of the world, the sundry obiects of delights drawes not away his eyes, nor as the Sirens with their inchanting melodies, nor golde nor glories can hale him with anye pleasing sorceries, from the quiet Castell of Content: thus minded Delia I tell thée I call him rich, and therefore holde my selfe one of the wealthiest subiects in all Ægipt, in that all my desires haue rested themselues in a peaceable concord, for my estate I desire to be no higher then a Smith, as thus spighting fortune by my occupation, hauing my Tongs in my hand as a Scepter, to rule in my shop, and as Mercuries Caduceus to charme the inconstancie of the vaine Goddesse: her greatest frowne can be but want of a little worke, and that I ouerpasse with patience, and if she smile, then begin I to laugh, that Fortune is glad to become frends with a poore Smith: Now for richesse and treasure I haue plentye, in that I wante none, but count my pouertie the verye store-house of abondance.

Delia hearing hir husband thus solemnlye deliuer such Stoicall paradoxes, ioyned issue with him in the same plea, and began to prosecute the matter in this manner. Indeed husband quoth she, the minds of men are so fiered with the restles

restles heate of couetize, as they beat out hotter flames then Enceladus doth from vnder Etna, and are like the Serpent Hidaspis, which the more she drinketh, the more she is pinched with thirst, insomuch that they count great gifts little gods, caring not if they may gaine, what meanes they vse to get, counting all things honest that are profitable, and thinking gall most swéete, if tempered with gold: these men that haue no meane I thinke most miserable, could they with Nimrod build vp Babell, or with Ninus lay the foundation of Babilon: for I tell thée Perymides, it is not the coine but the conscience, not the coffers stuffed with store, but a mind luld a sléepe with pleasing content, that maketh a man rich: for he that defrauded his neighbor with vnderminding policies, or circumuenteth him with any intricate deceit, exacting vnreasonable taskes and customs, wrapping his frends as if in Dedalus Laborinth, in the quiddities of preiudiciall bargaines, prying into the state of the common treasury, so to indōmage the common-wealth for his owne cōmoditie, gaping as Vultures after the testaments of the dead, not ceasing with the Rauens to pray on lineless carcasses: such as these husband, (quoth Delia) are not wealthie in that as miserablie they want, but are poore in that they leaue no vnlawfull meanes to couet. Then quoth Perymedes of these former inferred premises we may conclude, that poorly content is better then richlye couetous, which the ancient Romaines auered in their censures, for whether shall we estimate the meny that king Pyrrhus sent to Fabritius, or els the continencie of Fabritius which made deniall of the same, being proffered frankelye by so great a potentat: and did not the answer of Marcus Curius more glory him & his familie with immortall renowne, in reiecting the masse of Gold sent him by the Samnites, then al the treasure they brought in such pompe to Rome, was not the liberalitie of Africanus, who parted his small Farme with his brother Quintus Maximus, registred in Rome as a thing deseruing perpetuall memory, whē the great wealth

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and possessions of Lucius Paulus perisht at his funerales, leauing behinde him no monument, but that the Romains did accompt him poore and miserable These glorious instances of Roman excellencye, prowe, that the true richesse consisteth not in the aboundance of wealth, but in the perfect habit of Vertue: for richesse is casuall and momentary, subiect to the frowne of Fortune, as brittle as Glasse, standing vpon a Globe that is neuer permanent, like to the Trees amongst the Natolians, that being couered with flowers in the morning, are tawny & withered before night, resembling the frute in the Garden Pesparades, which glistering like gold, tought presently turneth to Ashes: wheras Vertue is not accidentall but sets out her Flag of defiance against Fortune, opposing himselfe against all the conspyring chances of this world: like Æneas armour not to be pierced with any contrary constellation, so insorted into the minds of men, as neither can perish by Shipwracke, which made Bias escaping from the Sea, bouldly and merily to sayc in his greatest want: *Omnia mea mecum porto*: And the sonne of Anchises carrying his Father on his backe through the flames of Troye, loking behind him to say, *Animus infractus remanet & virtus inter hostes & ignes viget*. Then Wife thou sest they onely are rich that couet nothing, that want nothing, but liuing in content, inrich themselues with Vertue: then Delia let me boldlye say (and with that the Smith set his hands by his side) that I am rich as the prowdest in all Ægypt. But now that I may not be to tedious in my discourse, I will to temper mirth with melancholy, and to sing the Satyres of Horace to the Lute, rehearse thee a pleasant Tale tending somewhat to this effect: and thus the Smith began.

Perymedes tale.

Ereby in the confines of Babilon, dwelled a Duke called Gradasso, a man whose many yeares had by long experience learned, that to trust sundry men, was to seeke for an Eele amongst many Scorpions,

and

and therefore hardly granting their right hand to anyman, he admitted none into familiaritie, vnlesse he might fall his courtesie for profit, and they buie his fauour with repentance. But in priuate and secret counsaile, he vsed no friend but himselfe, fearing to find that in others, which he found in anfed in his owne cankered stomacke, so skilfull to shadowe his spightfull practises with glosing couiers, as resembling the Pyrite Stone, he burned fiercest when he was thought most colde: to trust anye he thought was to despise securitie, and to desire mishap, and therefore knowne more for his authoritie then by his manners, he carried his thoughts sealed vp with silence, pained with that which he most liked, namelye Fearefull mistrust. This Gradasso although despighted by the Gods and nature, for placing such odious qualities in such an old carcasse, yet was he fauoured by Fortune in possessing large and sumptuous reuenues, and not only aduanced with the style of honor and dignities, but also wherein her most loyed, he had one onely Child called Melissa: a Ladye so furnished with outward shape of body, and inwarde qualities of the minde, so decked with the gifts of nature, and adorned with sundry exquisite vertues, as Aegyr did not so much despise his Father for his vitious dispositiō, as they did extoll hir fame for hir vertuous syncerity: for she although to hir great greefe, seeing into her Fathers lawlesse actions, how with pretensed flatterye like to the Hiena he had snared some to their vtter mishap, and that vnder coulour of lawe, with exacted extortion he had oppressed the poore, sought not onely as farre as she durst, to pull her Father from such inordinate gaines, but also secretly made recompence to such as hir Father vniustly had almost brought to ruine.

This Melissa flourishing thus in happy fame, the old mislard her Father casting beyond the Moone, knewe by experience, that as the herbe Spartania no sooner spryngeth above the ground but it bloweth, and the Eggs of the Lapwing are scarce hatched but the young ones can runne, so women resembling the Apples of the Tree Pela, are scarse ripe before

they desire to be pluckt, and their yeares not able to discerne loue before they be halfe drowned in loue: these considerations moued old Gradasso to preuent bad I will, with taking opportunity by the forehead, & therefore sought out amongst his bordering neighbours a yong Gentleman, the sonne and heyre of a Baron, whose reuenues as they were great, so they adioyned fitly to his possessions: which made the doting Duke to indeuour to buye him a sonne in lawe answerable to his owne opinion: finding his Daughter therefore in fyt time and place, he brake with hir in this manner. Thou knowest Melissa (quoth he) how carefull I haue beene since thy mothers death, not onely secretly to prouide for thy welfare, but openly so to grace thee with exteriour fauours, as all Egypt haue iudged me a Father worthie such a Childe: and thee for thy obedience deseruing what my liberalitie hath so carefully imparted. In thyne nonage I indeuoured to instruct thee in modestye and manners, by such vertues to seeme gratious in the eye of euerye man, now that thou art growne to ryper yeares, and art famous for the method of thy life through all the countrey, seeing thou art fit for marriage, I haue sought thee such an husband, as shal honor thee with his byrth, and inrich thee with his possessions, a man though not so exquisitely formed by nature, as he maye seeme a second Paris, yet of such wealth as hee may countenance and credit with the aboundance of his reuenues, and to be breefe daughter, it is Rosilius sonne to the Lord Rosilius latelye deceased: after he had named the man, he ceased to heare his daughters replye. Melissa noting with a secret mislike hir fathers motion, yet for feare durst not oppose hir selfe against his determination, but told him that as she was his Daughter, so she was bound by the law of nature to obeye him as hir Father, and his will should be to hir as a law, which by no meanes she dared to infringe: this answer pleased the old couetous Duke, that with as conuenient speed as might be, he brake the matter to Rosilius, who hauing no more wyt then hee well could occuppye, noting how faire a Lady he should possesse, condiscended with

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great thankes to the Dukes motion, and therepon frequenting the house of Gradasso began after his homely fashion to court the young Lady Melissa, as fit to woe so braue a Gentlewoman, as Pan to be sent from Troye inambassage to Helena: well, these two discords of descanting, to make a concord:

It fortuned that a Gentleman next neighbour to the duke, had a young sonne called Bradamant, a man so sufficiently graced with externall fauours of nature, to beautifie his body, and with inward qualities and vertues to aduance his minde as he was generally liked and loued of all the country: This young Gentleman passing by the Court of Gradasso, espied Melissa loking out of a windowe: Bradamant amazed at the sight of such a heauenly creature, stood a long while astonished at her excellent beautie, in so much that Melissa casting her eye aside, espyed him, and with that shut the casements: which somewhat daunted the minde of the young Gentleman, to be so sodenly deprived of that obiect which so greatly pleased his eyes, but taking this her modest discourtesie in good part, he passed forward to take a view of his fathers grounds, where as he sollemnly & sollitarylye walked, he felt in his minde a sparkling heate of affection, which he toke as a toye of youth, rather to be laught at for the sudden passion, then to be preuented for any ensuing danger. As thus he rested a little perplexed, but not greatlye pained, Cupid that grudged to lose such a nouice, hauing his winges plumed with Times feathers, least hee might let slip occasion, seeing this young Gentleman at discouert, thought to strike while the Iron was hot, and so drew a boult to the head, and stroke Bradamant at the very harte, which pierced so deepe, that no physicke could cure: For the fame of Melissaes life began to allure him, the report which all Ægypt made of hir courtesie, was a chaine to intangle hys freedome, hir honour, byrth, parentage, and incomparable beautie, gaue such fierce assaults to his perplexed fancie, as no defense of reason was able to withstand those violent impressions.

Bradamant finding himselfe pained with these bitterly tenditis, was driuen into a quandary, whether he should valiantly resist the enchanting tunes of Cupids sorcerye, and so stand to the chance whatsoeuer the maine were, or els yelde to the allaring call of Venerye, and so spend his youth in seeking and suing for doubtfull though desired fauours. Tossed a while in these contrary thoughts, and pinched with the consideration of his owne estate, he began to think that to fire his fancie vpon Melissa was with the yong Griphons to peake against the Stars: and with the Elmines to barke against the Moone, seeing the basenesse of his birth, and such a rich Mirall as Rossilins was, would greatly preiudice his intended suite. These considerations began somewhat to represse his desiring fancies: but Cupid not willing to take so slender a repulse, thought straight to race out these despairing thoughts, with the comfortable Conserues of Hope, and to draw Bradamant out of the Labyrinth of distrusting feare, with the assured possibilities of atchieuing his enterprise, wherefore began to incourage his Champion with these plausible conceaues, that Melissa was a woman, and therefore to be wone, if beautifull, with praise: if cope, with praiers: if proud, with gifts: if couetous with promises: to conclude, that as there is no stone so hard which cannot be cut, no Hawke so rammage that cannot be manned; no Tygre so fierce which cannot be tamed: so there is no woman so infected with the bitter passion of selfe-will: none so spotted with the staine of wellnigh cruelltie, nor so wedded into wilfull frowardnesse, but they may be drawne to the lure by some of the forenamed practises. Bradamant pricked forward with these pithie persuasions, and yet driuen backe with the feare of some hapless denialt, stood diuerslye perplexed whether he should with a momentary content sue after losse, or with a long disquiet sue after gaine, remaining a while in these doubts, halfe frantike with such vnaccustomed fits, he fell into these passionate complaints:

Oh Bradamant how art thou diuerslye perplexed, driuen either to purchase hapless content with fading pleasures, or to

to gaine a happy vnquiet with enduing paines; if thou chose the first, thou art like to repent at the last: if the second, sure, with Hercule after paine shall labours, to obtaine fame and quiet: the Caspians fearing to be stifled with sweete sauours, weare in their bosomes bunds of Hemlocke: the people Pharusij doubting to surfet with drinking the iuice of Liquorice, preuent such perrils with chewing Rewbarbe: it is better to be pained with the sting of a Snake, and recouer, then be tickled with the venime of Tarantula and dye laughing: hard yea hard it is, Bradamant, to ride on Scianus Horse, for his beauty and then perish, or to gaine the Golde of Thalessa, with assured mishap: better it is for a time with sorrow to preuent dangers, then to buye fading pleasures with repentance? Why Bradamant, what cause shalt thou haue to repent? Is paine alwayes a companion to pleasure? is danger the hand-maide to Loue? is Fancye neuer painted but treading vpon thornes? yes no doubt, as Cupid hath arrowes that do pierce, so they make sweete wounds. Yes vs I grant hath a wrinckle in her brow, but two dimples in her cheekes; the frowns not vpō them that sacrifice at Parhos: but paines such as despise hir Deitye: Loue Bradamant, why dost thou loue, yea alas, and therefore vnhappy because in loue, a passion so vnfit for thy yong yeares, as if thou yeld to Cupids allurements, thou shalt haue cause either to curse the Destinies for appointing him a God, or accuse the Gods for creating thee a man: for loue whatsoever the lucke be is alwayes tempered with losse: if thou winne, thy gaints shall be like theirs who buye Hony mixed with Gall, the sweetnesse not halfe so much pleasing the taste, as the bitternesse infecteth the stomacke: Parrhasius drawing the counterfeit of loue, painteth hir tickling Youth on the left side with a Feather, and stinging him on the right with a Scorpion: meaning that they which are sotted with the sorceries of Cupid, traye for a dram of Golde a pound of drosse, and for a pinte of pure oyle, a whole tun of infectious poison, being a fading pleasure mixed with bitter passions, and a miserye tempered with a dead

momentary delights. It is for youth Bradamant to spend their flourishing yeares in vertues not in vanities, to delight in hard armours, not in delicate and effeminate amours, not to dallye in the chamber with Paris, but to march in the field with Hector, to wish they could loue, not to repent they haue loued: Hercules wonne his fame not with recounting his lawlesse and licencious loues: but by atchieuing strange and inuincible labours, the one winning him endlesse renowns, the other vntimely death: seeke then to bridle fancie with reason, and to restraine doting affections with due counsaile: quench the flame of appetite with wisdome, and reaching at honor, spurne at beautye, so mayst thou say Venus flames are but flashes, and call Cupid a despised boye, not a redoubted God: Bradamant thinking thus with blaspheming curses to shake of fancies shackles, went out of his chamber to sport himselfe with his companions, where he passed away the day in playing at Chess, but although he gaue the checke, he was faine at last to take the Mate: for Venus hearing with what despightfull tearmes he abused her Deity, thought seeing he despised loue, to make him yeld vnto loue, and with panting sighes to craue pardon, where with bitter speeches he had railed: she therefore seeing he began to make a rampire against fancie, thought to giue a fresh assault to his balke defensed fortresse, and to send Desire as a Herald to make the challenge, that Beautie as a champion might performe the charge: which done, Bradamant willing to withstand hir power, passed three or foure daies in perplexed passions, counting loue as a toye, which being taken in a minute, might be left of at a moment: but he fond as the Abenstone once kindled can neuer be quenched, as the Griffon if he once soare into the ayre will neuer come downe without his praye: so if Venus giue the assault, it is vnpossible to escape without sacking: if loue displaye her flag, she neuer returnes without victorie: which forced Bradamant to present them with praiers, whome he had plagued with curses, and where he had shed bloud, there to offer the sacrifice: for the remembrance of Melissacs beautie

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so fiered his affections, that as the fye Pyrulus cannot liue out of the flame, nor the bird Trochilus keepe from the infections Crocodile: so bniles he might enioy what he feared to possesse, no meanes but death could cure his malady: Bradamant pining a long while in these doubtfull thoughts, began once againe to debate with himselfe, but all in vaine, yet maugre his owne mind he burst forth into these speaches: alas poore Bradamant, thou reachest at that with thy hand which thy hart would faine refuse, playing with the byde ibis which hatch Serpents yet fadeth on their Egs: consider Bradamant, then art the sonne of a poore Gentleman, and she the daughter of a mighty duke, the vsaume of thy parentage, thy liuing, thy patrimonie, is a sufficient reuing to thee: think not Eagles will catch at flies, or such mighty potentates stoope to such poore peasants. The Bull and the Hyena cannot be fed together in one stall: The Elephant eateth not where the Mouse hath crept: the Eagle & the Doue, pearche not on one branche: these brute beasts moaue only by sense, then a man, and not to be perswaded by reason: cease then Bradamant to loue her who soares so far aboue thy reach as lets at hir then maist, but obtaine her then canst not: play like the tra[illegible] that suffereth no fire to light vpon his fo[illegible] in thy mind be[illegible] Hercules temple, wherein no Dog can enter: suffer not loue to scale the fort wherein fraudome hath taken charge so shalt thou hath shape a strong bangers, and preuent thy selfe more wise then amorous. [illegible] what hast thou meane to mariner? beware hath a[illegible] to fetch the seas hath a plaught: fancie then to entinguish loue by feare, or to put out fancie by counsell: cast then meane to quench fire with a spoone: or to stop the mouth with a feather. Thou thinkest loue is to be scorne of men, because it hath no eies of the Gods: [illegible] they Gods and not [illegible] then a man [illegible] It is an [illegible] [illegible] because, because [illegible] loue, and therefore [illegible]

strive not then against the streame, feed not with the Deare against the winde, sake not to appease Venus with slanders, but with sacrifice: Melissa is beautifull and vertuous, to be wonne with intreatie, if thou feare not to attempt: what though Gradallo frowne, may not she fauour: he stifled with ceuetise, and therefore must hate: she stirred by Venus, and therefore must loue: if Melissa like, passe not, if he lowre, yea let both your parents mislike, so you two rest in contented quiet. Bradamant had no sooner vttered these words, but he felt his minde halfe eased with flattering himselfe thus in his follies, so that from doubting if he might loue, he fell to deuising how to obtaine his loue: Resting thus diuersly passionate: Melissa of the contrarye part began greatlye to affect young Bradamant, and though his meane byrthe, his parentage and lyuing, did dissuade her from liking so base a youth: yet a restlesse desire, a secret Idea and contemplation of his vertues and beautye, made him thinke if Gradallo would graunt, she could prefer Bradamant before Resillius, so that hindered in a Dylemma, she began thus doubtfully to debate with hir selfe: Oh vnhappy Melissa, whose minde is payned with vnacquainted passions, and whose head is troubled with vnequall thoughts: shall thy Virgins state be stained with fond desires, or thy young yeares darkened with Cupids shadowes? Tis fit for thee Melissa to spend thy youth in labours not in loues, to pace sollemnly after Vesta, not to gad wantonly after Venus: maides must haue deniall in their mouth and disdayne in their harts, so shall they safelye remaine free, and securelye despise Fancie: Diana is painted killing Vertue, and spotting Beauties face with a Pensell: Virgins must delight in ancient counsailes, not amorous conceits, least in smelling vpon sweete Violets, they stumble on bitter Rue. Truth Melissa, thou giuest good precepts if thou canst follow thine owne principle, thou art perswaded by Bradamant to loue, but take heede of such balefull allurements, arme thy selfe against his charming desire, with a chaste disdaine, so shalt thou be sure as he which weareth Lawrell cannot

not be hurte with lightning, nor he that carieth the pen of a Eagle perish with thunder: so shall neither Loue nor Fancie paine thee with hapless passions: thinke this, Bradamant is a man, and therefore inconstant: and as he sayth a Louer, and therefore a flatterer, as fickle as the Wolues of Syria which forget their praye ere they be halfe satisfied, & as dissembling as Iupiter, who feedeth Semele for a while with Nectar, and then killeth hir with fire. Sith then Melissa to loue is to lose, feare not Venus as a Goddesse, but despise her as a wanton, intreate not Cupid with prayers, but with curses: tell Fancie thou wilt reiect hir as a vassall, not regard hir as a vertue: for Bradamant raile at him as a peasant to loue for thy passions: in steed of courtesie, present him with Medæas inchanted Casket: doth Bradamant loue Melissa? no he hateth Melissa, he faineth loue to procure thy loffe, he flatteth to trye thy follie, and if he find thee to fond, he will bring thee a shape with melodie, and then strike of thy head with Mercurie. Oh Melissa condemne not Bradamãt, without cause, if thou meanest not to loue him, delight not to lacke him, proffer him not Netles sith he presents thee with Roses: if he yeld the Honie rub not his hiue with gall: answere him friendly, though thou straine courtesie to flatter, for swéte promises please more then sower gifts, and pleasant potions are better taken though infectious, then bitter pils though most wholesome: & know this Melissa, that the flame of the hill Chymera, is to be quenched with Haye, not with water: the mountaine in Harpasa to be remoued with ones finger, not with the whole strength: and loue to be driuen out with reason, not to bee thrust out with force, least in striuing against Venus she play the woman and seeke to reuenge. Melissa had no sooner vttered these words, but going into her Closet she passed away the time two or three dayes perplexed: her swéte loue Rosilius could not with all his clownish courting, driue hir from hir dumpes, but still all her thoughts and imaginations were fixed on the wytte and personage of young Bradamart, so that both the louers sought by walking in the woods to méete there

Bradamant finding himselfe pained with these sweet dainty tenders, was driuen into a quandary, whether he should valiantly resist the enchanting tunes of Cupids sorcerye, and so stand to the chance whatsoeuer the worse were, or els yeelde to the allaring call of Wrawtye, and so spend his youth in seeking and suing for doubtfull though desired fauours. Tossed a while in these contrary thoughts, and pinched with the consideration of his owne estate, he began to think that to fire his fancie vpon Melissa was with the young Griphons to peeke against the Stars: and with the Wolmes to barke against the Moone, seeing the baseneſſe of his birth, and such a rich Minall as Ressilins was, would greatly preiudice his intended suite. These considerations began somewhat to represse his desting fancies: but Cupid not willing to take so slender a repulse, thought straight to race out these despairing thoughts, with the comfortable Conseruces of Hope, and to draw Bradamant out of the Labyrinth of distrusting feare, with the assured possibilities of atchieuing his enterprise, wherefore began to incourage his Champion with these plausible conceiues, that Melissa was a woman, and therefore to be wonne, if beautifull, with praises: if coye, with prayers: if proud, with gifts: if couetous with promises: to conclude, that as there is no stone so hard which cannot be cut, no Hawke so rammage that cannot be manned; no Tygre so fierce which cannot be tamed: so there is no woman so infected with the bitter passion of selfe-will: none so spotted with the staine of hellish cruelltie, nor so wedded vnto wilfull froward neſſe, but they may be drawne to the lure by some of the forenamed practises. Bradamant pricked forward with these pithie perswasions, and yet driuen backe with the feare of some hapleſſe denial, stood diuerslie perplexed whether he should with a momentary content sue after loſſe, or with a long disquiet sue after gaine, remaining a while in these doubts, halfe frantike with such vnaccustomed fits, he fell into these passionate complaints:

Oh Bradamant how art thou diuerslie perplexed, driuen either to purchase hapleſſe content with fading pleasures, or to

so staine à happy disquiet with enduing pastes; if thou chose the first, thou art like to repent at the last: if the second, for, with Hercule, after paines all labours, to obtaine fame and quiet: the Caspians fearing to be stifled with sweete sauours, weare in their bosomes bands of Hemlocke: the people Pharusij doubting to surfet with drinking the iuice of Liquorice, preuent such perrils with chewing Rewbarbe; it is better to be pained with the sting of a Snake, and recouer, then be tickled with the venime of Tarantula and dye laughing: hard yea hard it is, Bradamant, to ride on Scianus Horse, for his beauty and then perish, or to gaine the Golde of Thalessa, with assured mishap: better it is for a time with sorrow to preuent dangers, then to buye fading pleasures with repentance: Why Bradamant, what cause shalt thou haue to repent? Is paine alwayes a companion to pleasure? is danger the hand-maide to Loue? is Fancye neuer painted but treading vpon thornes: yes no doubt, as Cupid hath arrowes that do pierce, so they make sweete wounds. Yes vs I grant hath a wrinckle in her brow, but two dimples in her cheekes; the frowns not vpō them that sacrifice at Pafhos: but paines such as despise hir Deitye: Loue Bradamant, why dost thou loue, yea alas, and therefore vnhappy because in loue, a passion so vnfit for thy yong yeares, as if thou yeld to Cupids allurements, thou shalt haue cause either to curse the Destinies for appointing him a God, or accuse the Gods for creating thee a man: for loue whatsoever the lucke be is alwayes tempered with losse: if thou winne, thy gaints shall be like theirs who buye Hony mixed with Gall, the sweetnesse not halfe so much pleasing the taste, as the bitternesse infecteth the stomacke: Parrhasius drawing the counterfeit of loue, painteth hir tickling Youth on the left side with a Feather, and stinging him on the right with a Scorpion: meaning that they which are sotted with the sorceries of Cupid, rape for a dram of Golde a pound of drosse, and for a pinte of pure oyle, a whole tun of infectious poison, being a fading pleasure mixed with bitter passions, and a miserye tempered with à sweet

Bradamant fitting himselfe pained with these touch daintenesse, was driuen into a quandary, whether he should valiantly resist the inchanting tunes of Cupids sorcerye, and so stand to the chance whatsoeuer the venture were, or els yeelde to the allurring call of Vrawtye, and so spend his youth in seeking and suing for doubtfull though desired fauours. Tossed a while in these contrary thoughts, and pinched with the consideration of his owne estate, he began to think that to fire his fancie vpon Melissa was with the young Griphons to peeke against the Stars: and with the Wolues to barke against the Moone, seeing the basenesse of his birth, and such a rich Minall as Ressilius was, would greatly preiudice his intended suite. These considerations began somewhat to represse his desiring fancies: but Cupid not willing to take so slender a repulse, thought straight to race out these despairing thoughts, with the comfortable Conserues of Hope, and to draw Bradamant out of the Labyrinth of distrusting feare, with the assured possibilities of atchieuing his enterprise, wherefore began to encourage his Champion with these plausible conceaues, that Melissa was a woman, and therefore to be wonne, if beautifull, with praiers: if coye, with praiers: if proud, with gifts: if couetous with promises: to conclude, that as there is no stone so hard which cannot be cut, no Hawke so rammage that cannot be manned; no Tygre so fierce which cannot be tamed: so there is no woman so infected with the bitter passion of selfe-will: none so spotted with the staine of hellish cruelties, nor so wedded vnto wilfull froward nesse, but they may be drawne to the lure by some of the forenamed practises. Bradamant pricked forward with these pithie perswasions, and yet driuen backe with the feare of some hapless dentall, stood diuerslie perplexed whether he should with a momentary content sue after losse, or with a long disquiet seeke after gaine, remaining a while in these doubts, halfe frantike with such vnaccustomed fits, he fell into these passionate complaints:

Oh Bradamant how art thou diuerslie perplexed, driuen either to purchase hapless content with fading pleasures, or to

so gaine a happy vsquiet with enduring paines; if thou chose the first, thou art like to repent at the last: if the second, for, with Hercule, after paine, all labours, to obtaine fame and quiet: the Caspians fearing to be stifled with sweete sauours, weare in their bosomes bands of Hemlocke: the people Pharusij doubting to surfet with drinking the iuice of Liquorice, preuent such perrils with chewing Rewbarbe; it is better to be pained with the sting of a Snake, and recouer, then be tickled with the venime of Tarantula and die laughing: hard yea hard it is, Bradamant, to ride on Scianus Horse, for his beauty and then perish, or to gaine the Golde of Thalessa, with assured mishap: better it is for a time with sorrow to preuent dangers, then to buye fading pleasures with repentance? Why Bradamant, what cause shalt thou haue to repent? Is paine alwayes a companion to pleasure? is danger the hand-maide to Loue? is Fancye neuer painted but treading vpon thornes? yes no doubt, as Cupid hath arrowes that do pierce, so they make sweete wounds. Yet vs I grant hath a wrinckle in her brow, but two dimples in her cheekes; the frowns not vpō them that sacrifice at Parhos: but paines such as despite hir Deitye: Loue Bradamant, why dost thou loue, yea alas, and therefore vnhappy because in loue, a passion so vnfit for thy yong yeares, as if thou yeld to Cupids allurements, thou shalt haue cause either to curse the Destinies for appointing him a God, or accuse the Gods for creating thee a man: for loue whatsoever the lucke be is alwaies tempered with losse: if thou winne, thy gaints shall be like theirs who buye Hony mixed with Gall, the sweetnesse not halfe so much pleasing the taste, as the bitternesse infecteth the stomacke: Parrhasius drawing the counterfeit of loue, painteth hir tickling Youth on the left side with a Feather, and stinging him on the right with a Scorpion: meaning that they which are sotted with the sorceries of Cupid, rape for a dram of Golde a pound of drosse, and for a pinte of pure oyle, a whole tun of infectious poison, being a fading pleasure mixed with bitter passions, and a miserye tempered with a delu

momentary delights. It is for youth Bradamant to spend their flourishing yeares in vertues not in vanities, to delight in hard armours, not in delicate and effeminate amours, not to dallye in the chamber with Paris, but to march in the field with Hector, to wish they could loue, not to repent they haue loued: Hercules wunne his fame not with recounting his lawlesse and licencious loues: but by atchieuing strange and inuincible labours, the one winning him endlesse renowns, the other vntimely death: seeke then to bridle fancie with reason, and to restraine doting affections with due counsaile: quench the flame of appetite with wisdome, and reaching at honor, spurne at beautye, so mayst thou say Venus flames are but flashes, and call Cupid a despised boye, not a redoubted God: Bradamant thinking thus with blaspheming curses to shake of fancies shackles, went out of his chamber to sport himselfe with his companions, where he passed away the day in playing at Chesse, but although he gaue the checke, he was faine at last to take the Mate: for Venus hearing with what despightfull tearmes he abused her Deity, thought seeing he despised loue, to make him yeild vnto loue, and with panting sighes to craue pardon, where with bitter speeches he had railed: she therefore seeing he began to make a rampire against fancie, thought to giue a fresh assault to his balke defensed fortresse, and to send Desire as a Herald to make the challenge, that Beautie as a champion might performe the charge: which done, Bradamant willing to withstand hir power, passed three or foure daies in perplexed passions, counting loue as a toye, which being taken in a minute, might be left of at a moment: but he fond as the Abenstone once kindled can neuer be quenched, as the Griffon if he once soare into the ayre will neuer come downe without his praye: so if Venus giue the assault, it is vnpossible to escape without sacking: if loue displaye her flag, she neuer returnes without victorie: which forced Bradamant to present them with praiers, whome he had plagued with curses, and where he had shed bloud, there to offer the sacrifice: for the remembrance of Melissacs beautie

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so fiered his affections, that as the flye Pyrulus cannot liue out of the flame, nor the bird Trochilus keepe from the infections Crocodile: so vnles he might enioy what he feared to possesse, no meanes but death could cure his malady: Bradamant pining a long while in these doubtfull thoughts, began once againe to debate with himselfe, but all in vaine, yet mauger his owne mind he burst forth into these speeches: alas poore Bradamant, thou reachest at that with thy hand which thy hart would faine refuse, playing with the byrde Ibis which hateth Serpents yet feedeth on their Egs: consider Bradamant thou art the sonne of a poore Gentleman, and she the daughter of a mighty duke, the disdaine of thy parentage, thy liuing, thy patrimonie, is a sufficient coling to thee: thinke not Eagles will catch at flies, or such mightye potentates stope to such poore peasants. The Bull and the Hiena cannot be fed together in one stall: The Elephant eateth not where the Mouse hath crept: the Eagle & the Doue, pearke not on one branche: these brute beasts moued only by sence, thou a man, and not to be perswaded by reason: cease then Bradamant to loue her who soares so far aboue thy reach, as loke at hir thou maist, but obtaine her thou canst not: play like the tree Cytizus, that suffereth no flye to light vpon his flower: let thy mind be like Hercules temple, wherein into no Dog can enter: suffer not loue to scale the forte wherein fredome hath taken charge, so shalt thou both escape ensuing dangers, and prouue thy selfe more wise then amorous? Ah Bradamant, what doest thou meane to measure ẏ heauens with a line, or to furrow the seas with a plough? seekest thou to extinguish loue by force, or to preuent fancie by counsell? dost thou meane to quench fire with a Sworde: or to stop the winde with a feather. Thou knowest loue is to be feared of men, because honoured of the Gods: Iupiter could not resist fancye, nor Apollo withstand affection, they Gods and yet in loue, thou a man and appointed to loue. It is an impression Bradamant not to be suppressed by wisedome, because not to bee comprehended by reason: without lawe, and therefore must needes bee aboue all lawe:

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striue not then against the streame, feed not with the Deare against the winde, sake not to appease Venus with slanders, but with sacrifice: Melissa is beautifull and vertuous, to be wonne with intreatie, if thou feare not to attempt: what though Gradallo frowne, may not she fauour: he stifled with ceuetie, and therefore must hate: she stirred by Venus, and therefore must loue: if Melissa like, passe not, if he lowre, yea let both your parents mislike, so you two rest in contented quiet. Bradamant had no sooner vttered these words, but he felt his minde halfe eased with flattering himselfe thus in his follies, so that from doubting if he might loue, he fell to deuising how to obtaine his loue: Resting thus diuersly passionate: Melissa of the contrarye part began greatlye to affect young Bradamant, and though his meane bye the, his parentage and lyuing, did dissuade her from liking so base a youth: yet a restlesse desire, a secret Idea and contemplation of his vertues and beautye, made him thinke if Gradallo would graunt, she could prefer Bradamant before Resillius, so that hindred in a Dylemma, she began thus doubtfully to debate with hir selfe: Oh vnhappy Melissa, whose minde is payned with vnacquainted passions, and whose head is troubled with vnequall thoughts: shall thy Virgins state be stained with fond desires, or thy young yeares darkened with Cupids shadowes: Tis fit for thee Melissa to spend thy youth in labours not in loues, to pace sollemnly after Vesta, not to gad wantonly after Venus: maides must haue deniall in their mouth and disdayne in their harts, so shall they safelye remaine free, and securelye despise Fancie: Diana is painted kissing Vertue, and spotting Beauties face with a Pensell: Virgins must delight in ancient counsailes, not amorous conceits, least in smelling vpon sweete Violets, they stumble on bitter Rue. Truth Melissa, thou giuest good precepts if thou canst follow thine owne principle, thou art perswaded by Bradamant to loue, but take heede of such balefull allurements, arme thy selfe against his charming desire, with a chaste disdaine, so shalt thou be sure as he which weareth Lawrell cannot

not be hurte with lightning, nor he that carieth the pen of a Eagle perish with thunder, so shall neither Loue nor Fancie paine thee with haplesse passions: thinke this, Bradamant is a man, and therefore inconstant: and as he sayth a Lover, and therefore a flatterer, as sickle as the Wolues of Syria, which forget their praye ere they be halfe satisfied, & as dissembling as Iupiter, who feedeth Semele for a while with Nectar, and then killeth hir with fire. Sith then Melissa to loue is to loose, feare not Venus as a Goddesse, but despise her as a wanton, intreate not Cupid with prayers, but with curses: tell Fancie thou wilt reiect hir as a vassall, not regard hir as a vertue: for Bradamant raile at him as a peasant to lowe for thy passions: in steed of courtesie, present him with Medæas inchanted Casket: doth Bradamant loue Melissa? no he hateth Melissa, he faineth loue to procure thy loose, he flattereth to trye thy follie, and if he find thee to fond, he will bring thee a shape with melodie, and then strike of thy head with Mercurie. Oh Melissa condemne not Bradamãt, without cause, if thou meanest not to loue him, delight not to lacke him, proffer him not Nettles sith he presents thee with Roses: if he yeld the Honie rub not his hiue with gall: answere him friendly, though thou straine courtesie to flatter, for swéte promises please more then sower gifts, and pleasant potions are better taken though infectious, then bitter pils though most wholesome: & know this Melissa, that the flame of the hill Chymera, is to be quenched with Haye, not with water: the mountaine in Harpasa to be remoued with ones finger, not with the whole strength: and loue to be driuen out with reason, not to bee thrust out with force, least in striuing against Venus she play the woman and seeke to reuenge. Melissa had no sooner vttered these words, but going into her Closet she passed away the time two or three dayes perplexed: her swéte loue Rosilius could not with all his clownish courting, driue hir from hir dumpes, but still all her thoughts and imaginations were fixed on the wytte and personage of young Bradamart, so that both the louers sought by walking in the woods to mate there

twitt vnto those deep passions, which secretly hauing vsed with in their breste; Bradamante hauing the course that his loue tiedes to hope, taking his Lute in his hand, repaires to a greene arbour Melissa presently resorted, & seeing the Saint whom in heart he did reuerence, stealing secretly amidst the thicket he determined to heare some part of his passions: Bradamãt full of melancholy dumps, tuning his Lute, began to warble out this madrigale:

The Swans whose pens as white as Iuory,
Eclipsing fayre Endymions siluer-loue:
Floting like snowe downe by the banckes of Po.
Nere tund their notes like Leda once forlorne:
VVith more dispairing sortes of madrigales,
Then I whome wanton loue hath with his gad,
Prickt to the Courte of deepe and restlesse thoughts,
The frolike yoongsters Bacchus liquor mads,
Run not about the wood of Thessaly,
VVith more inchaunted fits of lunacy,
Then I whome loue, whome sweete and bitter loue,
Fiers infects with sundry passions,
Now lorne with liking ouermuch my loue,
Frozen with fearing, if I step to far:
Fired with gazing at such glymmering stars,
As stealing light from Phebus brightest rayes,
Sparkles and sets a flame within my brest,
Rest restlesse Loue, fond baby be content:
Child hold thy darts within thy quiuer close,
And if thou wilt be rouing with thy bowe,
Ayme at those hearts that may attend on loue,
Let countrey swaines, and silly swads be still,
To Court yoong wag, and wanton there thy fill.

After that Bradamant had recorded this dittie, he heard a great rushling in the bushes, whereupon desirous to see what it might be, he espyed Melissa, at whose sight he stood so amazed, as if with Medusaes head he had beene turned to a stone: the Lady as much agast, hauing a cosin of hirs with hir called Angelica, vttered not a word, but the Louers made mute

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with loue, stood as persons in a trance, til Bradamant discourſing his loues, and making open his priuie passions, fell downe at her feete, and craued mercie: the Ladye as deepely payned as he was passionate, could not conceale fire in the straw: nor dissemble loue in her lookes, but flatlye tolde him that both the proportions of his bodye, and the vertues of hys minde had made such a conquest in her affections, that were it not the crabbed and couetous disposition of the Duke, she could find in her heart to make him hir onely paramour, but hir father Gradasso had prouided her a mariage, whome she durst not refuse, a man able with his wealth to maintaine hir, with his parentage to credit hir, and that his possessions were great gifts to content, and little gods to commaund, euen Vesta her selfe to leaue hir Virginitie, but quoth she, how I rest discontent with the match, I appeale to the Gods and myne owne conscience: Bradamant hearing her so willing to be wonne, tolde hir that pollicies in loue were not deceipts, but wisdome: that to dissemble in affection was to offer Venus her rights, and therfore if her fancy were such as she did protest, it were easie to inioye the fruition of their loues: Not so, quoth Melissa, for rather had I marrye Rosilius, and so wed my selfe to continuall discontent and repentance, then by being lose in my loues, and wanton in my thoughts disobeying my fathers commaund, to disparage mine honour and become a by-word throughout all Aegipt, for Ladyes honors are like white lawnes, which some are stayned with euerye mole: men in their loues haue liberties, that soare they neuer so high nor stope they neyer so lowe, yet their choice is little noted: but women are more glorious obiects, and therfore haue all mens eyes attentiuelye bent vpon them: yet (quoth she) how I misliyke of my Fathers commaund, and how male-content I am, lend me your Lute, and you shall heare my opinion: Bradamant glad that his Mistresse would vouchsafe to grace him with a Song, deliuered hir the instrument, wherepon Melissa beyng verye skilfull, warbled out this Dittye:

Obscure and darke is all the gloomie aire,
The Curtaine of the night is ouerspred:
The sylent Mistresse of the lowest spheare,
Puts on her sable coulered vale and lower.
Nor Star nor Milkewhite cyrcle of the skye
Appeares where discontent doth hold her lodge.
She sits shrind in a Cannapie of Clouds,
Whose massie darkenesse mazeth euery sense.
Wan is her lookes, her cheekes of Azure hue,
Hir haires as Gorgons foule retorting Snakes,
Enuie the Glasse wherein the hag doth gaze,
Restlesse the clocke that chimes hir fast a sleepe,
Disquiet thoughts the minuts of her watch,
Forth from her Caue the fiend full oft dooth flie,
To Kings she goes, and troubles them with Crownes,
Setting those high aspiring brands on fire,
That flame from earth vnto the seate of Ioue,
To such as Midas, men that dote on wealth,
And rent the bowels of the middle earth
For coine: who gape, as did faire *Danae*,
For showers of Gold their discontent in blacke,
Throwes forth the viols of her restlesse cares,
To such as sit at *Paphos* for releefe,
And offer *Venus* manie solemne vowes,
To such as *Hymen* in his Saffron robe,
Hath knit a *Gordion* knot of passions,
To these, to all, parting the gloomie aire,
Black discontent doth make hir bad repaire.

No sooner had Melissa ended this Sonnet, but for feare the two louers, though most vnwilling parted, determining when occasion would serue, they would meete againe: yet was not their meeting so in secret, but old Gradasso knew of their conference: whereupon he not onlye blamed his daughter, and in bitter and railing tearmes misused the father of Bradamant, but sought with all possible speed to dispatch the mar-

marriage: Melissa passing the dayes in melancholie, and the night in passionate dumpes, that her nuptials were so nye though men determine the Gods do dispose, and oft times many things fall out betweene the Cup and the lip, for the day being appointed, certaine tenants, as well Gentlemen as others, that were vnder the Duke, went to Pharao with generall complaints of his couetous and barbarous cruelty. Pharao whose thoughts aimed at excessiue desire of coine, toke opportunitie by the hand, & thought by these complaints to possesse himselfe of all his possessions and treasure, whereupon he sent for the Duke & Rosilius, and after he had heard the complaints, he banisht him, and Rosilius his sonne in law, with his Daughter Melissa, out of all the confines of Aegipt. Gradasso willing to answer to his accusers, could not be suffered by the King to make any replye, but within three dayes they must depart, which so danted the Duke and yong Rosilius, that they stode like those men that Perseus turned to stones, and poore Melissa sorrowing at the hard censure of the King, and weeping at the mishap of hir Father, cryed out against Fortune that was so fickle, and the starres that had so badlye dealt in the configuration of their natiuitie, seeing hir sorrow with teares, and hir Fortunes with wailings: well to be breefe, the day came of their departure, the Duke with Rosilius and Melissa were imbarked in a little Ship, and so transported into Libia, where when they arriued, the Duke for that he had small acquaintance or none in the Countrie, liued obscurely and in poore estate: the clowne Rosilius hauing no qualities of the mind, onelye at home relying vpon his reuenues, & now abroad driuen to satisfie his thirst with his hands, and to releeue his hunger with applying himselfe to any seruile kind of drudgerie: Melissa she got hir selfe into the seruice of a rich marchant, where with such courtesie she behaued hir selfe, that she was generally liked of all the household: while thus these three pilgrims liued in this penance, Bradamant hearing of this straunge accident, fell into diuers and sundry perplexed passions; First the feruent affection he

bare vnto Melissa, tolde him that Fortune may not part louers, nor the inconstant constellation of the planets, disseuer that which Fancye had vnited with such a bande, that the vowes of Venus are not to be violated: that loue must resemble a cycle, whose motion neuer ceaseth in that rounde, therefore he was bound by loue and dutie, to sayle after them into Lybia, and there to giue what reliefe he could to these exiles: but to these resolutions came strange and contrary motions: First the forsaking of his Father whome he most reuerently honoured: secondly his friends, whome in all duty he did reuerence, but that which pained him most, was to leaue Egipt his countrey, which hee loued more then his life, in so much that with Vlisses hee counted the smoake of Ithaca sweeter then the fiers of Troie, these considerations drewe him from his resolution of departure, so that he stayed for two or three daies passionate in Ægipt but loue that is restlesse suffred him to take no rest, but in his dreames presented him with the shape of Melissa, and waking, Fancie set so playnely the Idea of her person and perfection before his eyes, that as one tormented with a second hell, neither respecting father, country, nor friends, as soone as wynde and weather did serue, rigging a bonny Bark to the Sea, he passed into Libia, where he was no sooner arriued, but straight hee highed him to the Court, where then Sacrapant the king of that land kept his pallace royall, Bradamant liuing there for a space as a courtier, won such fauour for his excellent wit and rare qualities, that the king held him as one of his chefe gentlemen, and promoted him with great giftes, in so much that who but Bradamant in all the Court of Libia, flowrisht thus in great credit, he sought about to finde out the Duke and his daughter, him on a day as he passed downe to ẏ sea Cliffes he found gathering of Cockles, professing the state of a Fisher-man: with whom, after he had parted a litle, he bewrayed what he was, ẏ in what estimation he was with Sacrapant: the Duke glad to sée one of his countrimen, and neyghbours in so strang a land embraced him, to whom Bradamant briefly discour-

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ſed his mynde as concerning ye imperfections of Roſilius how his wealth onely reſpected, whereof now he was deprived, he was a mere peaſant and ſlaue of nature, not able, being ſtilla though noble bayne, to ſhew any ſparks of honor: ſeeing then the Duke was tyed to extremities he would now marry his daughter, and make hir liue as hir calling deſerued in the Court: Gradaſo no ſooner heard his minde, but he graunted to hys motion, ſo that Bradamant breaking the matter to the king Sacrapant with all his Lordes ſeeing the Damzell ſo fayre condiſcended, and with great pompe ſolempniſed the Nuptials, where Bradamānt mainteyned his wyfe and his father very richly vntill Pharao dying, the duke Bradamant and his wyfe Meliſſa with the clownilh Lord Roſilius paſſed home to their former Poſſeſſions: Perimedes hauing tolde his tale, he brust forth into theſe ſpeeches: Thou ſeeſt Delia how farre wit is preferred before wealth, and in what eſtimation the qualities of the mynde are in reſpect of worldly Poſſeſſions: Archimedes hauing ſuffered Shipwrack on the Sea being caſt on ſhoare all the reſt of the paſſengers ſorrowing becauſe their gods were loſt, he eſpying certaine Geometricall Caracters, merrily and cheerefully ſayd vnto them, Feare not fellow-mates in miſfortune, for I ſee the steps of men, and ſo paſſed: but when hee was knowen among them, the Phyloſophers releeued them all. Leaſt Perimedes ſhould haue gone forward in his diſcourſe, one of his neighbours came in to beare him company, and ſo hee ceaſt from his prattle.

If the reſt of their diſcourſe happen into my hands, then Gentle-men looke for Newes.

to discouer those fiery passions, which secretly raged within his breast; Bradamante knowing the course that his loue tooke to hope, taking his Lute in his hand, repaires to a groue whether Melissa presently resorted, & seeing the Saint whome in heart she did reuerence, stealing secretly amidst the thicket she determined to heare some part of his passions: Bradamãt full of melancholy dumps, tuning his Lute, began to warble out this madrigale:

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Eclipsing fayre Endymions siluer-loue:
Floting like snowe downe by the banckes of Po.
Nere tund their notes like Leda once forlorne:
VVith more dispairing sortes of madrigales,
Then I whome wanton loue hath with his gad,
Prickt to the Courte of deepe and restlesse thoughts,
The frolike yoongsters Bacchus liquor mads,
Run not about the wood of Thessaly,
VVith more inchaunted fits of lunacy,
Then I whome loue, whome sweete and bitter loue,
Fiers infects with sundry passions,
Now lorne with liking ouermuch my loue,
Frozen with fearing, if I step to far:
Fired with gazing at such glymmering stars,
As stealing light from Phebus brightest rayes,
Sparkles and sets a flame within my brest,
Rest restlesse Loue, fond baby be content:
Child hold thy darts within thy quiuer close,
And if thou wilt be rouing with thy bowe,
Ayme at those hearts that may attend on loue,
Let countrey swaines, and silly swads be still,
To Court yoong wag, and wanton there thy fill.

After that Bradamant had recorded this dittie, he heard a great rustling in the bushes, whereupon desirous to see what it might be, he espyed Melissa, at whose sight he stood so amazed, as if with Medusaes head he had beene turned to a stone: the Lady as much agast, hauing a cosin of hirs with hir called Angelica, vttered not a word, but the Louers made mute

with loue, stood as persons in a trance, til Bradamant discourſing his loues, and making open his priuie passions, fell downe at her feete, and craued mercie: the Ladye as deeply payned as he was passionate, could not conceale fire in the straw: nor dissemble loue in her lookes, but flatlye tolde him that both the proportions of his bodye, and the vertues of hys minde had made such a conquest in her affections, that were it not the crabbed and couetous disposition of the Duke, she could find in her heart to make him hir onely paramour, but hir father Gradasso had prouided her a mariage, whome she durst not refuse, a man able with his wealth to maintaine hir, with his parentage to credit hir, and that his possessions were great gifts to content, and little gods to commaund, euen Vesta her selfe to leaue hir Virginitie, but quoth she, how I rest discontent with the match, I appeale to the Gods and myne owne conscience: Bradamant hearing her so willing to be wonne, tolde hir that pollicies in loue were not deceipts, but wisdome: that to dissemble in affection was to offer Venus her rights, and therfore if her fancy were such as she did protest, it were easie to inioye the fruition of their loues: Not so, quoth Melissa, for rather had I marrye Rosilius, and so wed my selfe to continuall discontent and repentance, then by being lose in my loues, and wanton in my thoughts disobeying my fathers commaund, to disparage mine honour and become a by-word throughout all Aegipt, for Ladyes honors are like white lawnes, which some are stayned with euerye mole: men in their loues haue liberties, that seare they neuer so high nor stoope they neuer so lowe, yet their choice is little noted: but women are more glorious obiects, and therfore haue all mens eyes attentiuelye bent vpon them: yet (quoth she) how I misliyke of my Fathers commaund, and how male-content I am, lend me your Lute, and you shall heare my opinion: Bradamant glad that his Mistresse would vouchsafe to grace him with a Song, deliuered hir the instrument, wherevpon Melissa beyng verye skilfull, warbled out this Dittye:

Obscure and darke is all the gloomie aire,
The Curtaine of the night is ouerspred:
The sylent Mistresse of the lowest spheare,
Puts on her sable coulered vale and lower.
Nor Star nor Milkewhite cyrcle of the skye
Appeares where discontent doth hold her lodge.
She sits shrind in a Canopie of Clouds,
Whose massie darkenesse mazeth euery sense.
Wan is her lookes, her cheekes of Azure hue,
Hir haires as Gorgons foule retorting Snakes,
Enuie the Glasse wherein the hag doth gaze,
Restlesse the clocke that chimes hir fast a sleepe,
Disquiet thoughts the minuts of her watch,
Forth from her Caue the fiend full oft dooth flie,
To Kings she goes, and troubles them with Crownes,
Setting those high aspiring brands on fire,
That flame from earth vnto the seate of Ioue,
To such as Midas, men that dote on wealth,
And rent the bowels of the middle earth
For coine: who gape, as did faire *Danae*,
For showers of Gold their discontent in blacke,
Throwes forth the viols of her restlesse cares,
To such as sit at *Paphos* for releefe,
And offer *Venus* manie solemne vowes,
To such as *Hymen* in his Saffron robe,
Hath knit a *Gordion* knot of passions,
To these, to all, parting the gloomie aire,
Black discontent doth make hir bad repaire.

No sooner had Melissa ended this Sonnet, but for feare the two louers, though most vnwilling, parted, determining when occasion would serue, they would meete againe: yet was not their meeting so in secret, but old Gradasso knew of their conference: wherewpon he not onlye blamed his daughter, and in bitter and railing tearmes misused the father of Bradamant, but sought with all possible speed to dispatch the mar-

marriage: Melissa passing the dayes in melancholie, and the night in passionate dumpes, that her nuptials were so nye though men determine the Gods do dispose, and oft times many things fall out betweene the Cup and the lip, for the day being appointed, certaine tenants, as well Gentlemen as others, that were vnder the Duke, went to Pharao with generall complaints of his couetous and barbarous cruelty. Pharao whose thoughts aimed at excessiue desire of coine, toke opportunitie by the hand, & thought by these complaints to possesse himselfe of all his possessions and treasure, whereupon he sent for the Duke & Rosilius, and after he had heard the complaints, he banisht him, and Rosilius his sonne in law, with his Daughter Melissa, out of all the confines of Aegipt. Gradasso willing to answer to his accusers, could not be suffered by the King to make any replye, but within thrée dayes they must depart, which so danted the Duke and yong Rosilius, that they stode like those men that Perseus turned to stones, and poore Melissa sorrowing at the hard censure of the King, and weeping at the mishap of hir Father, cryed out against Fortune that was so fickle, and the starres that had so badlye dealt in the configuration of their natiuitie, séeing hir sorrow with teares, and hir Fortunes with wailings: well to be brefe, the day came of their departure, the Duke with Rosilius and Melissa were imbarked in a little Ship, and so transported into Libia, where when they arriued, the Duke for that he had small acquaintance or none in the Countrie, liued obscurely and in poore estate: the clowne Rosilius hauing no qualities of the mind, onelye at home relying vpon his reuenues, & now abroad driuen to satisfie his thirst with his hands, and to reléeue his hunger with applying himselfe to any seruile kind of drudgerie: Melissa she got hir selfe into the seruice of a rich marchant, where with such courtesie she behaued hir selfe, that she was generally liked of all the household: while thus these thrée pilgrims liued in this penance, Bradamant hearing of this straunge accident, fell into diuers and sundry perplexed passions; First the feruent affection he

bare vnto Melissa, tolde him that Fortune may not part louers, nor the inconstant constellation of the planets, disseuer that which Fancye had vnited with such a bande, that the vowes of Venus are not to be violated: that loue must resemble a cycle, whose motion neuer ceaseth in that rounde, therfore he was bound by loue and dutie, to sayle after them into Lybia, and there to giue what reliefe he could to these exiles: but to these resolutions came strange and contrary motions: First the forsaking of his Father whome he most reuerently honoured: secondly his frends, whome in all duty he did reuerence, but that which pained him most, was to leaue Egipt his countrey, which hee loued more then his life, in so much that with Vlisses hee counted the smoake of Ithaca sweeter then the fiers of Troie, these considerations drewe him from his resolution of departure, so that he stayed for two or three daies passionate in Ægipt but loue that is restlesse suffred him to take no rest, but in his dreames presented him with the shape of Melissa, and waking, Fancie set so playnely the Idea of her person and perfection before his eyes, that as one tormented with a second hell, neither respecting father, country, nor friends, as soone as wynde and weather did serue, rigging a bonny Bark to the Sea, he passed into Libia, where he was no sooner arriued, but straight hee highed him to the Court, where then Sacrapant the king of that land kept his pallace royall, Bradamant liuing there for a space as a courtier, won such fauour for his excellent wit and rare qualities, that the king held him as one of his cheefe gentlemen, and promoted him with great giftes, in so much that who but Bradamant in all the Court of Libia, flowrisht thus in great credit, he sought about to finde out the Duke and his daughter, him on a day as he passed downe to ỳ sea Cliffes he found gathering of Cockles, professing the state of a Fisher-man: with whom, after he had parted a litle, he bewrayed what he was, & in what estimation he was with Sacrapant: the Duke glad to sée one of his countrimen, and neyghbours in so strang a land embraced him, to whom Bradamant briefly discour-

ſed his mynde as concerning ye imperfections of Roſilius. how his wealth onely reſpected, whereof now he was deprived, he was a mere peaſant and ſlaue of nature, not able, being ſtilla though noble bayne, to ſhew any ſparks of honor: ſeeing then the Duke was tyed to extremities he would now marry his daughter, and make hir line as hir calling deſerued in the Court: Gradaſo no ſooner heard his minde, but he graunted to hys motion, ſo that Bradamant breaking the matter to the king Sacrapant with all his Lordes ſeeing the Damzell ſo fayre condiſtended, and with great pompe ſolempniſed the Nuptials, where Bradamānt mainteyned his wyfe and his father very richly vntill Pharao dying, the duke Bradamant and his wyfe Meliſſa with the clownilh Lord Roſilius paſſed home to their former Poſſeſſions: Perimedes hauing told his tale, he brauſt forth into theſe ſpeeches: Thou ſaſt Delia how farre wit is preferred before wealth, and in what eſtimation the qualities of the mynde are in reſpect of worldly Poſſeſſions: Archimedes hauing ſuffered Shipwrack on the Sea being caſt on ſhoare all the reſt of the paſſengers ſorrowing becauſe their gods were loſt, he eſpying certaine Geometricall Caracters, merrily and cheerefully ſayd vnto them, Feare not fellow-mates in miſfortune, for I ſee the steps of men, and ſo paſſed: but when hee was knowen among them, the Phyloſophers releeued them all. Leaſt Perimedes ſhould haue gone forward in his diſcourſe, one of his neighbours came in to beare him company, and ſo hee ceaſt from his prattle.

If the reſt of their diſcourſe happen into my hands, then Gentle-men looke for Reiues.

bare vnto Melissa, tolde him that Fortune may not part louers, nor the inconstant constellation of the planets, dissever that which Fancye had vnited with such a bande, that the vowes of Venus are not to be violated: that loue must resemble a cycle, whose motion neuer ceaseth in that rounde, therfore he was bound by loue and dutie, to sayle after them into Lybia, and there to giue what reliefe he could to these exiles: but to these resolutions came strange and contrary motions: First the forsaking of his Father whome he most reuerently honoured: secondly his frends, whome in all duty he did reuerence, but that which pained him most, was to leaue Egipt his countrey, which hee loued more then his life, in so much that with Vlisses hee counted the smoake of Ithaca sweeter then the fiers of Troie, these considerations drewe him from his resolution of departure, so that he stayed for two or three daies passionate in Ægipt but loue that is restlesse suffred him to take no rest, but in his dreames presented him with the shape of Melissa, and waking, Fancie set so playnely the Idea of her person and perfection before his eyes, that as one tormented with a second hell, neither respecting father, country, nor friends, as soone as wynde and weather did serue, rigging a bonny Bark to the Sea, he passed into Libia, where he was no sooner arriued, but straight hee highed him to the Court, where then Sacrapant the king of that land kept his pallace royall, Bradamant liuing there for a space as a courtier, won such fauour for his excellent wit and rare qualities, that the king held him as one of his cheefe gentlemen, and promoted him with great giftes, in so much that who but Bradamant in all the Court of Libia, flourisht thus in great credit, he sought about to finde out the Duke and his daughter, him on a day as he passed downe to ý sea Cliffes he found gathering of Cockles, professing the state of a Fisher-man: with whom, after he had parted a litle, he bewrayed what he was, & in what estimation he was with Sacrapant: the Duke glad to sée one of his countrimen, and neyghbours in so strang a land embraced him, to whom Bradamant briefly discour-

see his mynde as concerning ye imperfections of Rosilius, how his wealth onely respected, whereof now he was deprived, he was a mere peasant and slaue of nature, not able, being exile though noble borne, to shew any sparks of honor: seeing then the Duke was tyed to extremities he would now marry his daughter, and make hir liue as hir calling deserued in the Court: Gradasso no sooner heard his minde, but he graunted to hys motion, so that Bradamant breaking the matter to the king Sacrapant with all his Lordes seeing the Damzell so fayre condiscended, and with great pompe solempnised the Nuptials, where Bradamant mainteyned his wyfe and his father very richly vntill Pharao dying, the duke Bradamant and his wyfe Melissa with the clownish Lord Rosilius passed home to their former Possessions: Perimedes hauing told his tale, he brust forth into these speeches: Thou sayst Delia how farre wit is preferred before wealth, and in what estimation the qualities of the mynde are in respect of worldly Possessions: Archimedes hauing suffered Shipwrack on the Sea being cast on shoare all the rest of the passengers sorrowing because their gods were lost, he espying certaine Geometricall Caracters, merrily and cheerefully sayd vnto them, Feare not fellow-mates in misfortune, for I see the steps of men, and so passed: but when hee was knowen among them, the Phylosophers releeued them all. Least Perimedes should haue gone forward in his discourse, one of his neighbours came in to beare him company, and so hee ceast from his prattle.

If the rest of their discourse happen into my hands, then Gentle-men looke for Reiues.

William Bubb *Gentleman, to his* freend the Author.

AFter that freend *Robin* you had finished *Perymedes*, and vouchsafed to commit it to my vewe, liking the worke, and so much the rather, for that you bestowed the Dedication on my verye good freind Maister *Gernis Clifton*, whose deserts merit it (and one of more worth) whē your labour shall be imploied more seriouslie: the last sheete hanging in the Presse, comming into your studie, I found in your Deske certaine Sonets, fained to be written by the *Caldees*, what time the poore Smith and his wife liued so contentedlye, which shee hauing kept as iewels in her Chest, and you as relikes in your Chamber, not letting any but your familiars to peruse them, for that you feared to discouer your little skill in verse: these Sonets for that they fit my humour, and will content others, or els my iudgement failes, I charge thee by that familiar conuersing that hath past betweene vs, that thou annex them to the end of this Pamphlet, which if you grant, we still rest as we haue beene, if not, *Actum est de amicitia*, and so farewell.

Thine William Bubb.

The Author.

BEing Gentlemē thus strictly coniured by mine especiall good freend, I dare not but rather hazard my credit on your courtesies then loose for so small a trifle his freendship whome I haue euer found as faithfull as familiar,

familiar, and so familiar as can come within the compasse of amitie: then I humbly intreate, if my verses be harse, or want the grace that Poems should haue, that you will ouershadow them with your fauours, and pardon all, the rather for that I present them vpon constraint: if in this your courtesies shall freend me, I will either labour to haue better skill in Poetrie, or els sweare neuer to write anye more, and so I hartely bid you farewell.

R. G.

When the Caldees ruled in Aegypt, as the Gimnosophists did in India, and the Sophi in Greece, they vsed to endeuor as far as their graue counsailes could preuaile, to suppresse all wanton affections, respecting not the degrees of persons, to whome they deliuered their satyricall exhortations: it chanced therfore, that Psamnetichus yongest sonne, addicted to much to wanton desires, and to sot himselfe in the beautie of women: one of the Caldees hauing an insight into his lasciuious lyfe, perswaded him to desist from such fading pleasures, whose momentarye delights did breede lasting reprooche and infamie: the yong Prince making light account of his words, went into his Studye, and writ him an answer Sonnet-wise, to this effect:

I am but yoong and may be wanton yet.

N *Cypres* sat fayre *Venus* by a Fount,
Wanton *Adonis* toying on her knee,
She kist the wag, her darling of accompt,
The Boie gan blush, which when his louer see,
She smild and told him loue might challenge debt,
And he was yoong and might be wanton yet.

The boy waxt bold fiered by fond desire,
That woe he could, and court hir with conceipt,
Reason spied this, and sought to quench the fire
With cold disdaine, but wily *Adon* straight
Cherd vp the flame and saide good sir what let,
I am but young and may be wanton yet.

Reason replied that Beawty was a bane
To such as feed their fancy with fond loue,
That when sweete youth with lust is ouertane,
It rues in age, this could not *Adon* moue,
For *Venus* taught him still this rest to set
That he was young, and might be wanton yet.

Where *Venus* strikes with Beauty to the quick,
It litle vayles sage reason to reply:
Few are the cares for such as are loue-sicke
But loue: then though I wanton it awry
And play the wag: from *Adon* this I get,
I am but young and may be wanton yet.

After the young Prince had ended his sonnet and gyuen it as it were in derysion to the Caldee, the olde man willing to gyue him a sop of the same sauce, called together his wyts, and refelled his reason thus, after his owne methode:

The *Syren Venus* nourist in hir lap
Faire *Adon*, swearing whiles he was a youth
He might be wanton: Note his after-hap
The guerdon that such lawlesse lust ensueth,
So long he followed flattering *Venus* lore,
Till seely Lad, he perisht by a bore.

Mars

Mars in his youth did court this lusty dame
He woon hir loue, what might his fancy let
He was but young: at last vnto his shame
Vulcan intrapt them slily in a net,
And call'd the Gods to witnesse as a truth,
A leachers fault was not excus'd by youth.

If crooked Age accounteth youth his spring;
The Spring, the fayrest season of the yeare,
Enricht with flowers and sweetes, and many a thing
That fayre and gorgeous to the eyes appeare:
It fits that youth the spring of man should be,
Richt with such flowers as vertue yeeldeth thee.

After that the olde Caldee had penned this Poeme, he presented it to the young Prince, but how it tooke effect I little know, and leaue you to suppose: but this I am sure, Delia kept it in hir Casket as a Relick: and therefore as I had it I present it.

This Sonnet had no name prefixed, so that I knowe not whose inuention it was: but Delia held it more dere then all the rest, so that before shee drew it out off hir Store shee prayed it with many protestations: but as the Argument may inferre coniecture, it was done by a Louer, whose Mistresse was hard-hearted: which he discouered Metaphorically and mildly: Thus:

FAire is my loue for *April* in her face,
Hir louely brests *September* claimes his part,
And Lordly *Iuly* in her eyes takes place,
But colde *December* dwelleth in her heart:
Blest be the months, that sets my thoughts on fire,
Accurst that Month that hindreth my desire.

Like *Phœbus* fire, so sparkles both her eies,
As ayre perfumide with Amber is her breath:
Like swelling waues her louely teates do rise,
As earth hir heart, cold, dateth me to death.
Aye me poore man that on the earth do liue,
When vnkind earth, death and dispaire doth giue.

In pompe sits *Mercie* seated in hir face,
Loue twixt her brests his trophees dooth imprint,
Her eyes shines fauour, courtesie, and grace:
But touch her heart, ah that is stand of flynt;
That fore my harueſt in the Grasse beares graine,
The rockt will weare, washt with a winters raine.

This read ouer, she clapt it into her casket, and brought out an old rustie paper, and with that she smyled on her husband, and spake to her neighbour sitting by, I will tell you Gossip (quoth she) as precisely as my husband sits, hee hath beene a swag, but none age hath pluckt out all his Coltes teeth: for when hee and I made loue one to another, hee got a learned clarke to write this ditty, subtilly contrived as though it had beene betweene Shepheards, but he ment it of me and himselfe: Perymedes laught at this, and so the Sonnet was read thus:

Phillis kept sheepe along the westerne plaines,
And *Coridon* did feed his flocks hard by:
This Sheepheard was the flower of all the swaines,
That trac'd the downes of fruitfull *Thessale*,
And *Phillis* that did far her flocks surpasse,
In siluer hue was thought a bonny lasse.

A Bonny lasse quaint in her Country tire,
Was louely *Phillis*, *Coridon* swore so:
Her locks, her lookes, did set the swaine on fire,
He left his Lambes, and he began to woe;
He lookt, he sighit, he courted with a kisse;
No better could the silly swad then this.

He little knew to paint a tale of Loue,
Sheepheards can fancie, but they cannot sayes
Phillis gan smile, and wily thought to proue,
What vncouth greese poore *Coridon* did paie,
She askt him how his flocks or he did fare,
Yet pensiue thus his sighes did tell his care.

The Sheepheard thusst when *Phillis* questioned so,
And swore by *Pan* it was not for his flocke:
Tis loue faire *Phillis* breedeth all this woe:
My thoughts are trapt within thy louely locks,
Thine eye hath pearst, thy face hath set on fire.
Faire *Phillis* kindleth *Coridons* desire.

Can Sheepheards loue, said *Phillis* to the swaine,
Such saints as *Phillis*, *Coridon* replied:
Men when they lust, can many fancies faine,
Said *Phillis*: this not *Coridon* denied:
That lust had lies, but loue quoth he sayes truth,
Thy Sheepheard loues, then *Phillis* what ensueth.

Phillis was wan, she blusht and hung the head,
The swaine stept to, and cher'd hir with a kisse,
With faith, with troth, they stroke the matter dead,
So vsed they when men thought not amisse:
This Loue begun and ended both in one,
Phillis was loued, and she lik't *Corydon*.

And thus Gentle-men at my frends request I haue put in print those bad Sonnets, which otherwise I had resolued to haue made obscure, like the pictures that Phidius drew in his prentize-hood, which he paynted in the night and blotted out in the day: if they passe but with silence, how soeuer you smyle at them secretly, I care not if they be so ill that you cannot but murmur openly at such trash: I runne to the last clause of my frends letter: do this: *Aut actum est de amicitia*: and so I bid you farewell.

FINIS.